Building the ultimate Reds striker | Classic King Kenny | LFC Supporters Committee | Meet the new Liverpool Ladies boss

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+

Sakho! Sakho! Mamadou goes back to school

Divock Origi: learning to lead the line

All change at Anfield: stadium latest



KOMPLETE KLOPP

THE BEST SHOTS THE BACK STORY THE BIG PICTURE



PORTRAIT OF A GENIUS



ISSUE 040





Issue 40 December 2015

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The team prepare for Jürgen Klopp's first Premier League game as LFC manager in front of a colourful Kop. Read all about the boss in our special 30-page section

LIVERPOOL

A lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

Jürgen Klopp special plus exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, club legends and members of the Liverpool Ladies set-up.

CLUB

How the football club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus news from the stadium, official stores and media.

Trinity Mirror Sport Media
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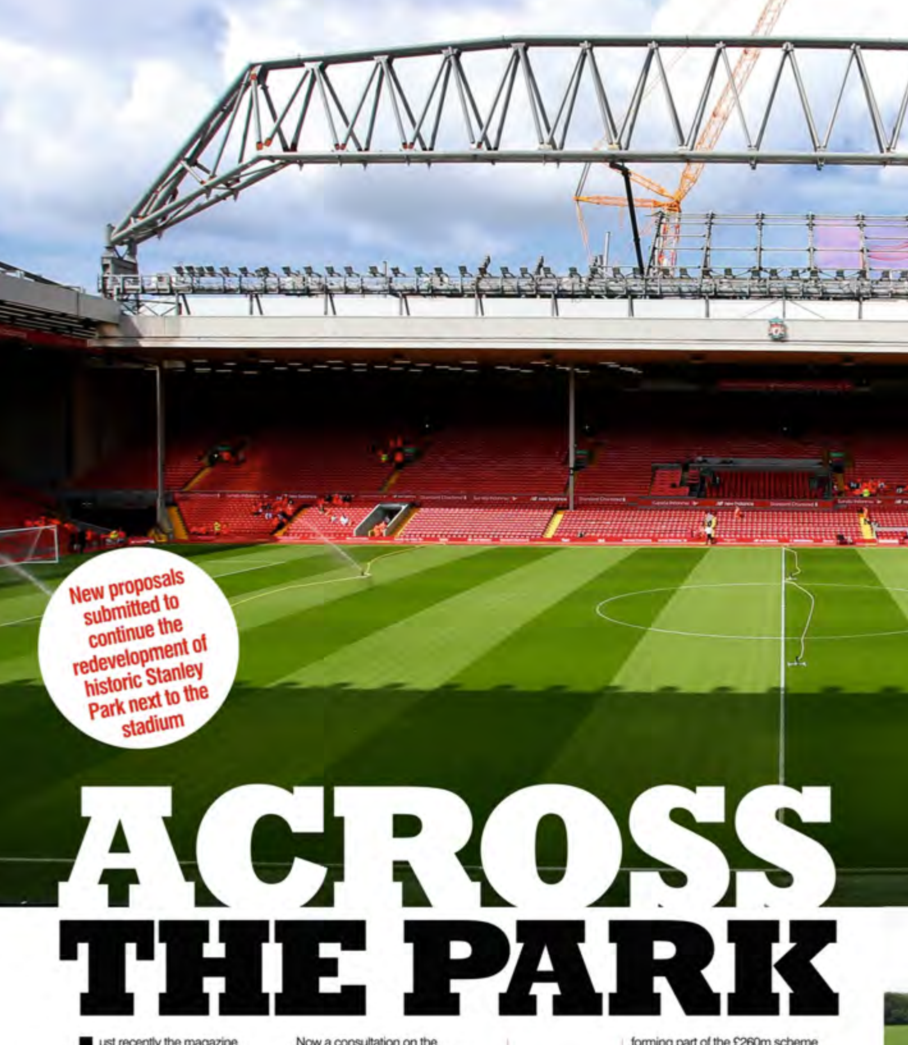
Keep in touch with the Club

liverpoolfc.com/socialmedia



There are lots of historic watering holes around the stadium at Anfield including this fine establishment on Walton Breck Road across from the Kop and official club store – but what is the name of the pub more or less opposite The Park? Page 98 has the answer.

A fab front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to



New proposals submitted to continue the redevelopment of historic Stanley Park next to the stadium

ACROSS THE PARK

Just recently the magazine reported on Liverpool FC's planning application which provided further details on the public-realm area of the Main Stand redevelopment project: a wide public space designed to reconnect the ground and Stanley Park, soft landscaping and simplified colours to further reflect the stadium's traditional architecture.

Now a consultation on the latest stage of the broader Anfield regeneration project has taken place, with the restoration of Stanley Park, which lies between Anfield Road and Goodison Park,on the agenda, and plans for its final phase of work shown in the Isla Gladstone Conservatory. Proposals include new trees and footpaths, improved lighting and repair of sandstone entrances and gates, forming part of the £260m scheme for the wider area which includes the Liverpool FC stadium expansion, new homes and offices.

Visitors have been able to discuss the plans with officials from the key groups associated with the project, including Liverpool FC and representatives from Your Housing Group, and work on this stage of the project could begin as early as spring 2016. Ann O'Byrne, the



deputy mayor of Liverpool, says: "The restoration of Stanley Park is another piece in the jigsaw and is vital to the whole vision for the Anfield area."

The proposals mark the latest milestone in the huge regeneration project well underway in Anfield. Homes around the stadium have been demolished as part of the plans to increase the capacity of Anfield to around 54,000, with the 650-tonne Main Stand roof truss visible from across the city since it was installed in July. Other plans include a 100-bed hotel and commercial premises at the new Anfield Square, the former housing site between Gilman Street and Pulford Street.

COCO ON KLOPP

Our girl from Schalke says Klopp's appointment has caused quite a stir back home in Germany

Liverpool Ladies' German full-back Corina Schroder says Jürgen Klopp's appointment as Liverpool manager has sparked a huge amount of interest in the Reds in her homeland.

The left-sided defender won the UEFA Women's Champions League with German sides Duisburg and Potsdam before joining Liverpool in 2013 and is delighted to see Klopp take charge at Anfield – for several reasons! "Of course I am pleased to see another German at Liverpool but mainly I am happy because he is a really good coach as I know only too well," she says. "I have always been a Schalke 04 supporter and the rivalry between Schalke and Dortmund is similar to that of Liverpool and Everton. His success at Borussia Dortmund meant Schalke were very much in their shadow.

"Since the announcement was made I have had lots of German fans contacting me about it via my Facebook and Twitter pages. I have never known such interest in Liverpool back home. Liverpool is certainly big news in Germany at the moment."

'Coco' also saw the new Reds boss endear himself to the German public during the 2006 World Cup when he worked as a television pundit having established himself as a leading coach at Mainz 05. "He is a funny character as we saw at his press conference saying: 'I am the Normal One'. But while he is engaging he certainly knows when the time is to work and he will make sure everyone buys into that.

"As a coach there is a little bit of the unconventional about him but he has a proven track record of working with young players and developing them. He really knows who has a good talent, and the other side to that is that young players don't cost so much money as experienced ones and he enjoys working with them, so I think he will build a good team who will play an exciting style of football with plenty of heart.

"All the supporters are really excited and I have never seen that level of excitement before. But that shows me that everyone respects him and knows what he represents as a coach. I am expecting him to be successful here. It's a good appointment – and it's good that he is not at Dortmund anymore!"



Tweets of the month

KLOPP SPECIAL





Kop Magazine
@TheKopMagazine
Jürgen Klopp, rocking the 1980s Kloppite look there #LFC #Klopp



Jamie Carragher
@Carra23
I've just been cut off on LFC TV for Jürgen Klopp! He better be good!!



Kelly Cates
@KellyCates
I love days when football makes grown adults feel like kids.



Titi Camara
@TitiCamara22
#LFC congratulations to Mr Klopp uniting the club as one before a ball has been kicked #KloppLFC



Borussia Dortmund
@BVB
We heard the news today, oh boy! All the best at The Kop, Jürgen Klopp! All the best at @LFC! #klopplfc







Xabi Alonso
@XabiAlonso
Welcome to the Liverpool family. YNWA Mr Klopp!!



John Arne Riise
@JARiiseOfficial
Just seen Jürgen Klopp first interview as manager of our great club @LFC. Gave me goosebumps!! What a way to start!!



PB
@patrikberger73
I was at Dortmund and LFC and it was a win-win situation and Klopp will be no different! World class manager @LFC #KloppforKop





THE ANFIELD WRAP
@TheAnfieldWrap
Klopp

Pedal of honour

**Two wheels? Check.
Fab cause? Check.
Love for LFC? Check…**



While we've all been singing *The Fields of Anfield Road* this season, 'Cycling Scouser' Andrew Rogerson has been on the road passing fields.

The 29-year-old LFC supporter took five months off work at Jaguar Land Rover to raise more than £20,000 for various leukaemia and blood cancer charities, including Anthony Nolan, by cycling 10,000 miles from Shanghai to Liverpool. He made the epic trip on his trusty bike, otherwise known as 'Sally', totally unsupported and funded it by selling his car.

Andrew was back in Liverpool for October, ending his marathon at the Pier Head via Goodison Park, where the Reds visited Everton. His route had taken him through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Hungary to Austria and it didn't stop him from following the Reds. Under a roof in Iran, the owner discovered that Andrew was an LFC fan so paid a satellite TV company to reposition the dish so he could watch our 1-0 win at Stoke!

Halewood-based Andrew's inspiring fundraising effort was recently recognised with a Liverpool Echo Pride of Merseyside award.

To find out more about Andrew's journey and how you can donate go to www.cyclingscouser.com.



Can't quite see Anfield from here

Winging it

'Always a warm welcome' says the sign across The Belmont, an historic watering hole on the corner of Belmont Road and West Derby Road, just opposite Newsham Park and a 15-minute walk to the ground. On the high gable is this Liver Bird, clearly visible in red on a white-brick background like a giant LFC crest from a bygone era.



Little corner of Alder Hey created with help from Gerrard donation

Steven's special gift



A garden at the new Alder Hey in the Park children's hospital has been built with the help of donations by former Reds skipper Steven Gerrard.

It was included in the £237million hospital so youngsters have somewhere to relax and play before, after and in-between appointments. It features astro-turf, teepee tents and large bean bags. Steven, along with fellow ex-Red Jamie Carragher, has donated substantial figures to the hospital, which was one of the partner charities for the Liverpool All-Star Charity Match, a Liverpool FC Foundation event last March.

Gerrard was also made a founding partner of the Alder Hey Children's Charity at the same time, and has previously spoken of his affection for the hospital: "I've visited Alder Hey on many occasions and while the children and their families are going through such difficult times, you can also see how much work goes into making it as comfortable as possible for them."

Inspired by young people, the new Alder Hey in the Park features a uniquely-designed hospital alongside a dedicated research and innovation facility, providing a world-class healing environment for thousands of patients from across the UK.

Over the years Alder Hey has enjoyed a special relationship with LFC, welcoming a variety of Reds heroes through its doors. The annual Christmas visits from the manager with his first-team squad are always memorable for patients, their families and staff, bringing smiles to both Reds and Blues supporters. The club's Academy squad and Liverpool Ladies team regularly visit wards and the club is very much a part of the Alder Hey family.

MIGHTY RED MAYHEM!

Mascot keeps local pupils on their toes during fun-packed visit

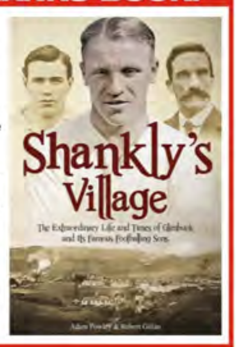
It's been a busy month for Mighty Red, Liverpool Football Club's super sporty official mascot. Not only was he on hand to help open the club's revamped official store at Williamson Square (see page 86), along with Nathaniel Clyne and Mamadou Sakho we should add, he also dropped into All Saints School in Anfield to entertain the pupils.

French international Sakho is a regular at All Saints, which is a partner school with Liverpool FC Foundation. But as our photos show, Mighty Red wasn't going to let the Reds defender have all the fun! When he's not jumping around and singing louder than everyone on matchdays you'll find Mighty Red at the Family Park on Anfield Road three hours before kick-off, meeting all the supporters there and posing for photos. He's also got his very own magazine, called *Kop Kids*, and there'll be a new issue out soon for Christmas.



WIN NEW SHANKS BOOK!

We've got three copies of new book *Shankly's Village* to give away. Written by Adam Powley and Robert Gillan and published by Pitch, it's a revealing insight into how Glenbuck shaped Bill Shankly and played a crucial part in LFC's dominance. For a chance to win a copy, send your name, address and contact number to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com and put **GLENBUCK BOOK** in the title bar. We'll pick the winners at random and announce them in the next issue. Closing date: Friday 27 November 2015.



MOTD Book winners:
John Cato, Liverpool L25; Jane Basley, Woodplumpton, Lancs; Ricki Davies, Wrexham.

THE DORTMUND FILES

Liverpool's several links with the German city and its football club



Hampden 66: neither Liverpool or Borussia Dortmund (nor any German club for that matter) had won a European trophy when the clubs met in the 1966 Cup Winners' Cup final on a wet night in Glasgow. With many 'neutral' Celtic fans supporting the Germans having seen the Bill Shankly boys beat their Bhoys in the semi-final, Dortmund's Sigi Held opened the scoring before Roger Hunt took the game into extra-time with a goal that was allowed to stand despite the linesman flagging to say Peter Thompson's cross had gone out. A freak goal won it, Reinhard Libuda's 35-yard effort going in off Ron Yeats after striking the crossbar first – and the Reds never reached the now-defunct Cup Winners Cup final again.

All going to Germany: despite being the seventh-biggest stadium in Europe, the third-biggest club stadium (after Camp Nou and Estadio Santiago Bernabeu) and the largest in Germany, Dortmund's Westfalenstadion – currently known as Signal Iduna Park – has only ever held one European final, in May 2001. Liverpool won it, 5-4, to complete a treble of trophies, with an extra-time 'golden' own-goal, at the end of a bonkers UEFA Cup final which finished 4-4 after 90 minutes and, in extra-time, with the Spaniards down to nine men. This, after ex-Red Erik Meijer had partied with travelling Kopites wearing his old LFC shirt in Dortmund's Alter Markt before the match. Makes Istanbul 2005 look a bit dull, eh?





Champions League 2001/02: Liverpool's first-ever Champions League away game was at Borussia Dortmund's Westfalenstadion in October 2001. It couldn't have been more different to the Reds' visit there five months earlier, finishing 0-0 following a match so boring you'd have had more fun watching paint on a yellow wall dry. Gerard Houllier's men needed a point in the Anfield return in December to progress from their group and duly took all three with goals from Vladimir Smicer and Stephen Wright. It was the Bootle-born defender's only goal for the Redmen and came at the Kop end.



Cally carded: a year after the Westfalenstadion opened for the 1974 World Cup finals, Liverpool played there for the first time in a pre-season friendly against second-tier Borussia Dortmund. It was a game Ian Callaghan will never forget. After 16 years without being booked, he was shown a yellow for an innocuous challenge. "I took the ball off one of their players as he came towards me. He could not stop himself and simply fell over me. I couldn't understand why the referee booked me as I hadn't committed a foul." Fortunately for Cally it wasn't reported to the FA, keeping his perfect disciplinary record unblemished, and Liverpool won zwei-null thanks to a first goal from new boy Joey Jones and a Peter Cormack header.



Fab two: the Reds kicked off their 1984 pre-season campaign at the Westfalenstadion as part of BVB's 75th anniversary celebrations and Joe Fagan had a couple of new faces on display. Goalkeeper Bob Bolder deputised for Bruce Grobbelaar, who was at home waiting for his wife to give birth to his first child, while summer recruit Paul Walsh made his debut upfront. Liverpool won 1-0, thanks to a typical Ian Rush strike from six yards out, with the Daily Post concluding: 'The Welshman's much-vaunted double act with Walsh gelled only fleetingly, but they did enough to suggest they will be regarded as Lennon and McCartney rather than Canon and Ball'. Rock on, Rushie.



Pre-season goals: to help raise funds for the victims of the 1992 Bastia Stadium tragedy, Graeme Souness' Liverpool played in a four-team pre-season tourno at PSG's Parc des Princes. After losing 2-1 to Monaco they faced Dortmund in the third-place play-off, but it was an afternoon to forget for debutant Reds keeper David James. He was beaten from 30 yards by Gerhard Poschner, then Michael Rummenigge got another from close range and although Mark Wright pulled one back, Stephane Chapuisat's 'rising angled strike whistled through the arms of the surprised James' (said one newspaper report) to make it 3-1. Don Hutchison's last-minute header at least made it look like a close contest.



This is Anfield: when Jürgen Klopp brought his Dortmund team to Merseyside last August he couldn't resist touching the famous *This is Anfield* sign and footage of him doing so went viral on Twitter. Liverpool won 4-0 – Daniel Sturridge, Dejan Lovren, Philippe Coutinho and Jordan Henderson all getting on the scoresheet – and visiting our historic home got his blood pumping. Discover why in his interview with LFCTV on page 24.



The players: four men have arrived at LFC from BVB, with varying degrees of success. The first, after Euro 96, was Patrik Berger, who spent just one season in Dortmund before bringing his alice-band to Anfield. Paddy netted 35 goals in 196 games for the Reds and could strike a ball with such ferocity that Leicester keeper Kasey Keller said after being beaten twice by him: "It's a good job I didn't get in the way of either shot or I'd have been back in the net with them." In the summer of 1997 World Cup winner Karlheinz Riedle became Liverpool's first-ever German player, but at the age of 31 his best days were behind him and he was largely used as back-up to Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen. Swiss right-back Philipp Degen was signed from Dortmund two months after Jürgen Klopp took over as manager there, but only made 13 appearances for the Reds in two injury-hit years, while our most recent arrival with a Dortmund connection was their German-born Turkish international Nuri Sahin who made 12 appearances on loan here in 2012/13 (from Real Madrid) and scored twice in a League Cup victory at West Bromwich Albion.
The question now is: who might be next?

WHAT'S


WALK ALONE
L.F.C.
22 nd. OCTOBER 2015
R.KAZAN
MATCHDAY AT ANFIELD
РУБИН
R.KAZAN
MATCHDAY AT A
LIVERPOOL
22 nd. OCTOBE
KLOPP
VON DER KOP
KLOPP
THE KOP

ON:NOV

PALACE AND SWANS

The Reds host two Premier League fixtures at Anfield during November with Crystal Palace providing the opposition at the start of the month and Swansea City at the end. Liverpool had mixed fortunes in the corresponding matches last season. Palace put paid to Steven Gerrard's hopes of a winning Anfield sign-off with a 3-1 victory but Swansea were seen off 4-1 in the final game of 2014 with Adam Lallana on target twice.


Adam celebrates

CITY SLICKERS?

The Reds will put their credentials to the test when they make the short trip to the Etihad Stadium. Last season's trip saw the Reds slip to a 3-1 defeat in a match which saw Emre Can, Alberto Moreno and Lazar Markovic make their debuts for the club. The fixture will be Liverpool's 80th away league game against City with the Reds currently shading the overall verdict by 29 wins to 28 with the other 22 matches ending all-square. While at Dortmund, Jürgen Klopp's side enjoyed one of their best displays in a Champions League game at the Etihad in October 2012 despite the match ending in a 1-1 draw. "It was one of the best games I've ever seen," Klopp reflected afterwards.

EURO NIGHTS

Liverpool's quest for a place in the knockout stages of the UEFA Europa League continues with the long trip to Kazan at the start of the month before we play our final home game of the group stage against Bordeaux on the final Thursday night of November. The Reds, of course, drew 1-1 against Rubin at Anfield last month in Jürgen Klopp's first Anfield match in charge having previously shared the spoils at Bordeaux's new stadium when the sides played out a 1-1 draw in France in September.





Jerome Sinclair in PLIC action v Chelsea

YOUNG GUNS FACE BENFICA

This season sees the second edition of the Premier League International Cup, contested by eight clubs from England – including LFC – and eight from outside. On Friday 20 November the Reds face Benfica at Chester FC's Swansway Stadium (7pm).

The competition comprises of four groups of four, with Liverpool in a group which also includes Chelsea and Celtic. Clubs play each opponent in their group once and all matches, including those between international teams, are staged in England. Then come the quarter-finals, semis and final, all played as single-leg ties, again in this country. As with last season teams will be made up of Under-21 players, save for three outfield players and the goalkeeper who can be over 21.

Danny Stanway, LFC's general secretary, says: "Celtic are arguably the biggest club in Scotland, Benfica have a great youth set-up and Chelsea are always strong at those upper-age groups. There are three competitive games there, which is important for our lads. It gets them used to playing a domestic game at the weekend then a different style during midweek."

The young Reds will be out for revenge after losing 2-1 to Benfica in last season's UEFA Youth League last 16 clash in Portugal.

Birthdays and anniversaries

Jim Furnell 78 on 23 November
Rob Jones 44 on 5 November
Ron Yeats 78 on 12 November
Ian Ross 68 on 26 November
Phil Babb 45 on 30 November
Jimmy Melia 78 on 1 November
Steve Heighway 68 on 25 November
Xabi Alonso 34 on 25 November
Jordan Williams 20 on 6 November
Jack Dunn 21 on 19 November
Ryan Kent 19 on 11 November
Patrik Berger 42 on 10 November
John Barnes 52 on 7 November
Peter Thompson 73 on 27 November
Bobby Graham 71 on 22 November
Neil Mellor 33 on 4 November

9 years since the Reds defeated Besiktas 8-0 in a Champions League group game on 6 November
48 years since Liverpool defeated TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Cup tie on 7 November
40 years since David Fairclough made his Reds debut at Middlesbrough on 1 November
53 years since Willie Stevenson made his debut for the Reds on 3 November
54 years since Ian Callaghan scored his first Liverpool goal on 4 November
63 years since Ronnie Moran made his Liverpool debut on 22 November



FIXTURE LIST 2015/2016

AUGUST
Sun 9 Stoke City (A) 1-0
Mon 17 AFC Bournemouth (H) 1-0
Mon 24 Arsenal (A) 0-0
Sat 29 West Ham United (H) 0-3

SEPTEMBER
Sat 12 Manchester United (A) 1-3
Thu 17 Bordeaux (A, Europa Lge M1) 1-1
Sun 20 Norwich City (H) 1-1
Wed 23 Carlisle United (H, COC 3) 1-1
(won 3-2 on penalties)
Sat 26 Aston Villa (H) 3-2

OCTOBER
Thu 1 FC Sion (H, Europa Lge M2, 8.05pm) 1-1
Sun 4 Everton (A, 1.30pm) 1-1
Sat 17 Tottenham Hotspur (A, 12.45pm) 0-0
Thu 22 Rubin Kazan (H, Europa Lge M3) 1-1
Sun 25 Southampton (H) 1-1
Wed 28 Bournemouth (H, COC 4, 7.45pm)
Sat 31 Chelsea (A, 12.45pm)

NOVEMBER
Thu 5 Rubin Kazan (A, Europa Lge M4, 6pm)
Sun 8 Crystal Palace (H, 4pm)
Sat 21 Manchester City (A, 5.30pm)
Thu 26 Bordeaux (H, Europa Lge M5, 8.05pm)
Sun 29 Swansea City (H, 4.15pm)

DECEMBER
Wed 2 Capital One Cup 5
Sun 6 Newcastle United (A, 4pm)
Thu 10 FC Sion (A, Europa Lge M6, 6pm)
Sun 13 West Brom Albion (H, 4pm)
Sun 20 Watford (A, 1.30pm)
Sat 26 Leicester City (H, 3pm)
Wed 30 Sunderland (A, 7.45pm)

JANUARY
Sat 2 West Ham United (A, 12.45pm)
Wed 6 Capital One Cup S-F 1
Sat 9 Emirates FA Cup 3
Tue 12 Arsenal (H, 8pm)
Sat 16 Manchester United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23 Norwich City (A, 3pm)
Wed 27 Capital One Cup S-F 2
Sat 30 Emirates FA Cup 4

FEBRUARY
Tue 2 Leicester City (A, 8pm)
Sat 6 Sunderland (H, 3pm)
Sat 13 Aston Villa (A, 3pm)
Thu 18 UEFA Europa League R of 32 1
Sat 20 Emirates FA Cup 5
Thu 25 UEFA Europa League R of 32 2
Sat 27 Everton (H, 3pm)

MARCH
Tues 1 Manchester City (H, 8pm)
Sat 5 Crystal Palace (A, 3pm)
Sat 12 Chelsea (H, 3pm)
Sat 12 Emirates FA Cup 6
Sat 19 Southampton (A, 3pm)

APRIL
Sat 2 Tottenham Hotspur (H, 3pm)
Sat 9 Stoke City (H, 3pm)
Sat 16 Bournemouth (A, 3pm)
Sat 23 Newcastle United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23 Emirates FA Cup S-F
Sat 30 Swansea City (A, 3pm)

MAY
Sat 7 Watford (H, 3pm)
Sun 15 West Bromwich Albion (A, 3pm)
Sat 21 Emirates FA Cup final



Jürgen Klopp drew his first home game in charge but can you name the last LFC manager to win on his Anfield debut?
Answer on p98
L.F.C.
All you need to know about the Reds' new boss, exclusive interviews with first-team stars and columns from men in the know


KLOPP
30-page special on the new Liverpool FC manager: first press conference; opening game; Anfield debut; plus all the stats and words of wisdom
VERPOO
ÜBER
LES
DISABILITY LIAISON


WE BELIEVE

LFCTV EXCLUSIVE

THE FIRST INTERVIEW

On the evening that his appointment as Liverpool FC manager was officially announced Jürgen Klopp sat down with LFCTV's Claire Rourke...

CLAIRE ROURKE: Jürgen, welcome to Liverpool Football Club...

JÜRGEN KLOPP: Thank you so much.

CR: How do you feel?

JK: Great! I have no other words for this. It was a crazy day with everything that happened in Germany and all that happened here when we landed. It's an absolutely great feeling for me and a big honour to be here. It's one of the best moments in my life, I have to say. I'm here together with my family – not the whole family, one son is still at home – but we are here together and it feels like a dream.

CR: What attracted you to Liverpool Football Club?

JK: Everything. All I heard about, all I read about, all I felt when I saw, not too many matches in my life but some very important games. I love football and the intensity of football in Liverpool is very good for me. I always thought about working in England because of the kind of football and the intensity of the football, and Liverpool was first choice. Now I have got the opportunity to work here, it's the best thing I can imagine.

CR: What did you need to consider, or would you say it was an easy decision?

JK: It was not the most difficult decision. I ended my contract with Dortmund four months ago and I thought about what I would do in the future. I had to develop myself, think about all the things that had happened in the last 15 years. But then I had a holiday for four months and it was enough. It was great, but it was enough. The owners have a dream and I have a dream, and so there was not too much they had to say so I could be here... I had six very, very cool years at Dortmund and one hard year in the last one, but as a package it was perfect. But I wanted to do something new – and now I am here.

CR: Let's talk about Anfield - how much are



you looking forward to that becoming your home and being the manager for those fans?

JK: My English is not good enough to express this! Not at the moment [anyway], you'll have to ask me this in a few months again. But of course I am pretty excited. I want to see it, I want to feel it, I want to smell it – I want to do everything. When I came here with Dortmund a year ago [for a preseason friendly] I was really excited. I came in and saw the dressing-room for the away team... For me, it was historical. It's a great place – I've been to some places in the world with football, but this was the most special place I'd been. Borussia Dortmund's stadium, Signal Iduna Park, is a great stadium and I had another perfect little, little stadium with Mainz 05, but this [Anfield] is the most historic place. I am looking forward to it and at this moment I don't know what I will feel, but it will be good.

CR: It'll be pretty special to go into that home-team dressing-room...

JK: Yes, of course. I hope. I'm sure!

CR: How important is it to you to have or create that special connection with the supporters?

JK: I understand football. If the people are not interested in football, we can put some sticks in the park and play football. It's still the perfect game, it's still the same game, but it's only this game because of the fans. That's what I know, what I think, what I feel. We have to entertain them, we have to make their lives better. That's what we have to do because football is not so important – we don't save lives or things like that, we are not doctors. It's our job to let them forget their problems for 90 minutes and then they can talk for three days about the last game and talk for two days about the next game. That's how I want to live; if I am not a manager, that's the way I would live because I love this game so much. That's why I try to be as close as possible to the fans, but it's not always so possible to be close to the fans because of the job. I have to work and I need time to work, so it's not always as the fans want but it's as often as possible.

CR: But you feel you understand what it is to be a fan?

JK: I always understand. Maybe on Friday I can go to all the places in the stadium and someone will tell me: 'That happened here and that happened there... Stevie G shot from here, Robbie Fowler or whoever'. That's pretty cool.

CR: You can go wherever you want now – you're the manager of Liverpool Football Club!

JK: Yeah, that's the best thing! But not during the 90 minutes. That will be the most difficult thing for me, the two benches being so close. It's so different to Germany – you could accidently hit the other coach or manager. I get a little bit emotional during a game!

CR: Do you think you'll need to adapt to English football? How do you think you will adapt?

JK: Of course I will adapt, maybe I have to, I don't know! But in this moment I don't think about this because it's football and I know English football. I watched so many games and we played against English teams. Some things are different but that's not too important in this moment because it's only football. Don't forget, it's a game and we all have the same rules, the pitches are similar in size, so it's not so difficult. My experience is: listen, see, feel, and then think about what you change. Now I have to do these three things and then think about what I have to change or I have to adapt or whatever. I've [been in] football for a long time, I was a player, now I'm a manager. I don't want to make it too complicated.

CR: What similar challenges do you think you'll face here at Liverpool that you faced at Dortmund?

JK: Maybe this is the biggest challenge in this moment in world football [laughs], but I was never a guy for the easy way... I know what I want, but I don't want to tell it to you. First I have to talk to the players, of course. We have to find a common way. We will find a common way and who wants to do what I sometimes propose! [They] can be a good friend of mine [laughs] and it's not such a bad thing to be a good friend of mine because I am really loyal.

CR: How do you assess the squad that you're inheriting here at Liverpool?

JK: It's good, it's good. I'm here because I believe in the potential of the team. If Liverpool ask me and I see the team and think, 'Oh my God', no, no, no. In this moment, we are not the best team in the world. Who cares? Who wants to be the best team in the world today? We want to be the best team tomorrow or another day. That's all. What I saw from outside is absolutely okay. I saw some good matches and some not so good, but it's normal in football you have some problems. You have to solve them. The important thing is we have speed, we have technical skills, we have tactical skills, we have good defenders, good midfielders, good strikers, wingers. Now we have to see who is fit for the first game against Tottenham and then we have to make a team for this game. Then we can start. I'm not a dream man, I don't want to have Cristiano [Ronaldo] or Lionel [Messi] and all these players in one team. I want these guys [the current squad]. It was a decision for these guys. Now we start working.

CR: Can you tell us what style of play we can expect?

JK: A wild one [laughs]. In football, all the world-class teams play possession football, that's cool. I like to watch this. Bayern Munich, great team, great club; Barcelona, yes; Real Madrid; maybe on some days, Manchester City. But nobody starts as a ball-possession team. You cannot





start and say: 'Okay, we have the ball and the other players have to wait'. The first thing, always, maybe in life, you need to have a stable defence. That's the first thing, always. Because you can only stay confident in a game when you know not each offensive move of the other team is a goal. That's the first thing and when you start a development nobody starts a development from the top of the table, only a few teams. You always have a little bit [of a] lower position and our position is absolutely okay…

The kind of football [I coach] is emotional. I like this, I like the emotion in the game. I like the speed in the game. You have to be a real man or woman in the game. It's hard, all things are like this. If I talk about aggressiveness, I only talk about aggressiveness against myself. I have to be harder, feel no pain or something like this, and not aggressive against the opponent because I'm not interested in fouls or things like this. I will see what is possible with this team and then we will decide how we start and when we start we'll know more…

If it's possible, can we be the hardest team to beat in the world? Let's try to be this. If you are this, it's not that far away to be a team who can win games. First of all we have to talk with all LFC fans, talk about what are expectations. Because expectations can be a real big problem: it's like a backpack of 20 kilos, it's not so cool to run with this! We have to talk about this, we have to think about this, and then we can start.

CR: Do you think you need a lot of time to implement your style and philosophy?

JK: Of course it needs a lot of time for the end, but not to start. I'm not here to promise you will see against Tottenham the absolute new LFC - but some of the new LFC would be cool. That's what we'll try to do. Everything in life takes time. To be an adult takes time. To become a football player takes time. Everything takes time. The only thing nobody gives time is development.

CR: There has been a lot of media talk about the transfer structure within this football club. What is your take on it and what conversations, if any, have you had with the owners about that?

JK: It's a really funny thing. It was absolutely no problem between FSG and myself. We talked about this. It's nothing. If two smart, intelligent, clever guys sit together on a table and you both want the same, where can be the problem? We all want to be successful. The only thing for me is to have the first and last word. I don't want to spend money the club doesn't have. I don't want to hold a player that doesn't want to stay. I have to work all day with these guys. Nobody will sell a player I want to work with, even if it's a good deal. Nobody wants to transfer a player without my 'yes'. So everything is okay, I don't need more.



CR: Will you be bringing any backroom staff?

JK: Of course. My two 'brothers-in-mind', Zeljko [Buvac] and Peter [Krawietz], great guys. You will feel it when you see them. They are cool, they are football maniacs. They work pretty hard and they are my perfect partners in this job, because as a manager you always have to make decisions and always have to think about so many different things. In my opinion, it's very important that you have somebody you can talk to. We can talk about everything. I make the decisions, of course, but I need very good people around me.

CR: What are you hoping to achieve short and long-term?

JK: Success. It's important what we can do together to change our situation. At the moment, all of the LFC family is a little bit too nervous, a little bit too pessimistic, too often in doubt. They all celebrate the game, it's a great atmosphere in the stadium, but they don't believe at the moment. They only want to see five years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago. History is great but it's only to remember. No, we have the possibility to write a new story if we want. For that, we have to clear a few things.

CR: Finally, what is your message to the Liverpool supporters?

JK: We have to change from doubter to believer. Now.





The first week

The buzz in the city and around the wider football world, the full house for the first official press conference, held at Anfield… John Hynes summarises the start of the new Reds manager's reign

Whatsapp discussions, text messages, Facebook, Twitter, on the bus, on the train, in the corner shop. There was only one name being mentioned in the days that followed Liverpool's 1-1 draw at Goodison Park last month.

Almost immediately after the derby Brendan Rodgers had departed and it very quickly became apparent that there was a good chance his replacement would be the impressive Jürgen Klopp.

Personally, as both fan and writer for the magazine I was sceptical that the appointment would go ahead. With so many rumours and so much speculation surrounding the game nowadays I stubbornly refuse to get excited by any potential new arrival until the deal is actually confirmed and the man in question is standing at Anfield wearing our colours. Yet it was hard not to become engulfed by the wave of excitement which grew and grew as it became more obvious that LFC's new manager would indeed be the former Borussia Dortmund boss.

By the Wednesday after the Merseyside derby it seemed almost a certainty, and the realisation that one of the most coveted coaches in the game was on his way had Kopites grinning from ear to ear. I even overheard a conversation where an optimistic fan suggested: "With this lad in charge we'll win the league this season."

Still, I was reluctant to get carried away or think about it too much. That was impossible, though, as even a quick glance at my phone or online took me to people talking about Klopp. Apparently he'd even been spotted

"It was so hard not to be engulfed by the tidal wave of excitement all around"



He's really here!



at an Audi dealership in Liverpool. Of course in reality it was someone who bore a passing resemblance, but it gave you an idea of the hype surrounding his imminent arrival.

On Thursday afternoon the story went into overdrive with reports from Germany saying he had signed a contract with Liverpool while, simultaneously, the sightings of him kept coming. Buying a Lotto ticket, sitting on a bus, in a hardware shop… If he was on Merseyside he was having a ridiculously busy day. Of course he had yet to arrive, but even the details of his flight from Dortmund to John Lennon Airport were being monitored online, 35,000 people tracking the progress of the private plane.

Around the same time as Klopp was in the air, word came through that 'a major club announcement' would be taking place at an Anfield press conference on Friday morning. It was actually happening: one of the most sought-after and admired managers in the game was to be our new gaffer and, just after 5pm, he was spotted leaving Liverpool Airport. Some people

"Around 35,000 people tracked the progress of his plane on Twitter"

online speculated that he might jump on the 82C bus into town, but instead he was photographed in a Mercedes people-carrier heading for a city-centre hotel to meet club officials.

Finally, the seemingly inevitable news every Liverpool fan had been waiting for was confirmed at around 9pm: Klopp had signed a three-year contract and would be unveiled at Anfield the next morning, while reports emerging out of his homeland quoted the 48-year-old as saying: "From tomorrow I will be a Liverpool man 24/7."

Despite having two young kids of my own and regularly craving a good night's sleep, I found it difficult to nod off that night.Would

Any questions?


new balance
Standard Chart
new balance

Klopp have second thoughts and change his mind? He's always been unpredictable and, as numerous videos demonstrated, eccentric. That thought still lingered in my brain as we made our way to Anfield and the Centenary Stand for the official press conference on Friday morning for our first glimpse of him.

Naturally we weren't alone: the Reds Lounge was full to capacity with reporters, cameramen and photographers from all over the globe having descended on L4. The room was buzzing, and this was even before Klopp had stepped inside. Seasoned journalists – supposedly neutral observers – had big smiles etched across their faces instead of the usual non-plussed expressions.

And those members of the media with LFC allegiances were almost doing cartwheels with excitement.

Then, around 10am, a temporary hush descended as Klopp entered to be greeted by a wall of camera flashes. As he made his way to the long table in the head of the room he smiled and looked around before

"Even the most seasoned journalists had big smiles on their faces"

addressing the audience with a cheery "Good morning."

Initially Klopp seemed slightly taken aback by what the LFC media officer described as a "phenomenal turnout." He apologised for his English, something that was unnecessary as it was almost flawless – on the few occasions he was unsure of a word he eventually found the right one to get his point across.

His time with the media contained plenty of humour and he seemed relaxed throughout. But there were also moments when Klopp showed the ruthlessness required of a top manager, dismissing one question and declaring he would have the first and last word on transfers. It was clear that he also has a serious side. By the time





At the Academy with Alex Inglethorpe

he stood up from the table to leave, the impression he had made was huge. Everybody in the room agreed that he'd somehow lived up to the hype.

Walking away from the ground that morning you felt energised. You felt much more positive about this season and the future ahead. It gave you a little glimpse of why the Borussia Dortmund players were so motivated and so willing to outrun and outplay opponents on the way to two Bundesliga titles and a Champions League final appearance.

If Jürgen Klopp can make such an impression in a press conference, imagine how his Liverpool players will feel when he sends them out to do battle at Anfield. I wouldn't want to be in their way.

His first post-press conference training session at Melwood



BE IN THAT
Kop a load of these stats about the new Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp...
325
league apps made by Jürgen during his 11 seasons as a player with Mainz 05
1
BORUSSIA DORTMUND MANAGER HAS LED THE CLUB TO A LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE: JÜRGEN KLOPP IN 2012
56.29 %
was Borussia Dortmund's win ratio dur-ng Klopp's 318 matches in charge of BVB
Burtonwood 29
Folkestone 300
Reims 504
Seebach 730
Glatten 764
miles between Liverpool and Jürgen's home town of Glatten if you make the journey by car
FSV MAINZ 5
LIVERPOOL 0
the scoreline Klopp's Mainz 05 beat the Reds by in a pre-season friendly in 2006

NUMBERS



48 hours under the needle for BVB fan Martin Huschen when he had Klopp's face tattooed on his back in April 2012

109,559

views on YouTube of the BT Sport footage of Klopp touching the This is Anfield sign before a pre-season friendly against BVB in 2014

2005

was the year Jürgen got married to wife Ulla

10+ MILLION

worldwide sales of Procul Harum's Whiter Shade of Pale, the UK number one when Jürgen was born on 16 June 1967

25:28

the length in minutes and seconds of Jürgen Klopp's first press-conference as Liverpool manager

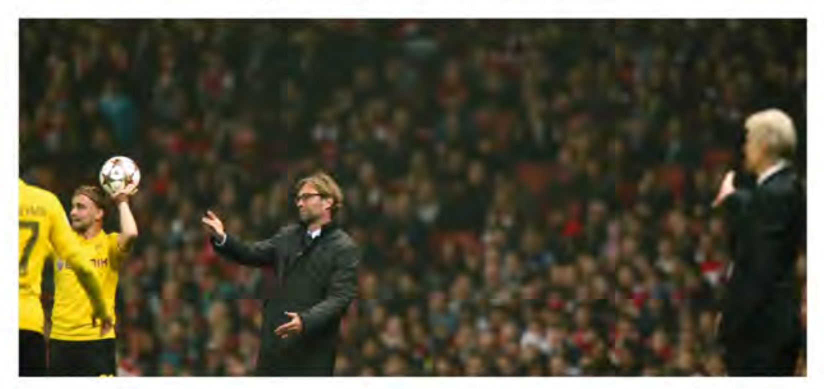


24 goals scored by Klopp's Borussia Dortmund in 13 Champions League games in 2012/13 as they went all the way to the final at Wembley



2 Bundesliga titles won by Borussia Dortmund under Klopp's management

KLOPP QUOTES



Signing Henrikh Mkhitaryan for Borussia Dortmund

"Mkhitaryan fits us like an arse on a bucket. What he offers is exactly what we need."

Winning away at Bayern Munich

"When Dortmund last won here 19 years ago, most of my players were still being breast-fed."

When asked by a Schalke fan what was the secret to winning the Bundesliga

"How do you explain to a blind person what a colour is?"

Tiki-taka football

"It is not my sport. I don't like winning with 80 per cent [possession]. That is not enough for me. Fighting football, not serenity football, that is what I like. What we call in German 'English': rainy day, heavy pitch, 5-5, everybody dirty in the face and goes home and can't play for weeks after."

Having a hair transplant

"Yes, it's true. I underwent a hair transplant. And I think the results are really cool, don't you?"

The differences between himself and Arsene Wenger

"He likes having the ball, playing football, passes. It's like an orchestra. But it's a silent song. But I like heavy metal more. I always want it loud."

Creating a style of football at Borussia Dortmund

"The fans should not only recognise us by our black-and-yellow jerseys. Even if we play in red, everyone in the stadium should think: 'Whoa, that can only be BVB'."


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LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

First game in charge: midday kick-off, Tottenham Hotspur away. The new manager took it all in his stride, as David Cottrell reports from behind the Liverpool dugout

What was it Jürgen Klopp said about sunshine footballers in his first press conference? "If you think about the weather, stay away." Wouldn't you know, those supposedly warmer climes down south (London being closer to the Equator and all that) are absent for his first game as Liverpool manager. Not that it's chilly or even raining as such, but it sure is overcast. White Hart Lane, a lovely old football ground, feels a bit like a budgie's cage today with a big grey tea-towel tossed over the top. Do the Liverpool fans care? Does Sturridge miss from five yards?

It's a long way to Tottenham Hotspur, a long way to go, especially from Seven Sisters tube station, along the endless High Road and past the Town Hall and turn-offs for Walthamstow and Wood Green. We're making this timezone-straddling schlepp on account of rail services from overground stations closer to the stadium being suspended, according to my match-going mate who'll believe anything he mis-hears (more of him later). Though just inside the delineating North Circular Road, Spurs has always felt a good deal further out than local rivals Arsenal, at least to this particular writer/away fan when he lived in the Smoke.

I'm going back a bit now, so bear with the misty eyes. The first time I



"From just behind the dugout you realise how good these players really are"

went to White Hart Lane was by coach for the 1986 FA Cup semi-final against Southampton when Saints defender Mark Wright broke his leg and Ian Rush won it for Liverpool. The chorus of *You'll Never Walk Alone* from our end at full-time, as the players walked over to salute the travelling Kop, still gives me goose-bumps.

The first and last time I sat in the press box at White Hart Lane was a few years later. Saturday 18 January 1992; a rookie journalist on a weekly football magazine, moved-down to London and determined to tick off all the capital's grounds whether or not the Reds were in town. On this occasion Tottenham were playing a Southampton side which had a young powerhouse of a no9 called Alan Shearer playing alongside Iain Dowie (uncle of Liverpool Ladies striker Natasha) and potty-mouthing the nearside linesman. Upfront for Spurs: Paul Walsh, formerly of our own parish, and Gary Lineker.

Nine months later, for the Liverpool game I borrowed the season-ticket of a Spurs fan I worked with. She couldn't make the match for some reason, so there was me, sat among the home supporters right behind the goal (Paxton Road end in those days, I think), getting all sorts of funny looks off the locals, alone and forlorn with a face like a squeezed orange as they leapt up to cheer goals from Nayim and Neil Ruddock not long before he swapped the lily-white for all-red. Two-nil. Dismal.

The most recent time I saw the Reds play here? Sunday 16 August 2009, season-opener. Tottenham Hotspur 2 Liverpool 1. Assou-Ekotto's half-volleyed rocket, Gerrard's equaliser from the penalty spot, Bassong's demoralising winner, and Carragher and Skrtel's painful clash of heads. At least that time I was in the away end.

So, the here and now. Earlier this morning we took a train from South London into a King's Cross station and London skyline I barely recognised, not even since May 2014 when I was down for the three-all at Crystal Palace. Thanks to the Klopp factor, if they weren't already hard-to-come-by, tickets for this Tottenham match are now like gold-dust. Opposite me on the train down from Lime Street last night was a fella with his lad, desperate for a spare; as it goes he did get one, he tells me a week later back in the Twelfth Man before the Southampton game at Anfield.

I'm fortunate to be press-passed up today. My pal is picking up his ticket for the away end from another friend in The Antwerp Arms, a countrified little pub not five minutes from the full-throttle footfall of Tottenham High Road. In a few minutes, as they attempt to pass through the turnstiles it'll dawn on them that they've come with the wrong tickets: Chelsea v Liverpool in a fortnight's time, not Tottenham v Liverpool. Good job the Spurs staff are so understanding: after a few security checks they're allowed in a few minutes after kick-off.

I've left them to torment the Tottenham ticket-office. I want to get in the ground handy today, keen to witness Klopp's emergence from the tunnel before a phalanx of photographers. I'd forgotten how close to the action the press-box is at White Hart Lane (well, it has been 23 years). Wedged between the lads from the LFC website and a writer from *FourFourTwo* Stats Zone, I'm right behind the Liverpool dugout, flush with the halfway-line and so low I can make

out the subtle camber of the pitch. Out comes Klopp, tracksuited and booted, off go the flashes. He shakes hands with Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino and we're ready to go.

I'm torn between keeping an eye on the boss for the purposes of this piece, and watching the game unfold like everyone else in the ground. I'll come clean: the fan in me wins, so don't be expecting too much Kloppological insight. You've come this far you may as well stick with me till the end.

At this level, with no panoramic perspective from the stands, you realise how good these footballers are. There is no time or space to dwell on the ball, hardly a second to react let alone think. Instant control, incredible first-touch, pinball-passing. Peering over the heads of substitutes Jordon Ibe, Joao Carlos Teixeira, Joe Allen, Jerome Sinclair and Connor Randall just in front of me, checking the urge to join in the songs from the away corner to our right, amid all the excitement this much registers: Klopp hugs the touchline for most of the match, but as soon as the opposition win a corner he sits down; as soon as the danger passes he's on his feet again pitchside, arms folded in front or hands clasped together behind his back. He applauds courage and cute play; urges his side forward with one arm outstretched when they win back the ball; spins back to the bench with a grimace and flick of the fringe when they concede or waste possession.

Whenever possible he touchline-coaches Divock Origi, who looks and listens and comes so close with that first-half header against the bar. A little later Sakho's block on his own line brings a punch to the air. The manager is impassive when Lucas, penalised for a foul right by the two dugouts, barks at a gesticulating Pochettino, but he's playful with the Spurs boss when the ref, who blows for a push on Nathaniel Clyne, is berated by the home fans. In stoppage time when a Liverpool corner comes to nothing he screams at his players to get back – *GET BACK!*

Full-time. Boy, have these players put a shift in for the new gaffer. "Satisfied" is his verdict in the post-match press-conference inside the West Stand. "Our start was brilliant, we did well… When we had the ball we were not cool enough, we did not use our skills. We didn't see the right options but it's normal… We had our moments, after three days it's okay… We enjoyed it [our first game in charge] but we're not here to enjoy it… We are in, and now we can work."

The rest of us? Made-up, all things considered: manager's first game, striker shortage and a point away to a Tottenham team that whupped Man City 4-1 here last time round. Let's get home: here come Rubin Kazan.

"He urges his players forward, grimaces when they give the ball away"





KLOPP QUOTES

What attracted him to Liverpool FC

"The intensity of the football. How the people live for football in Liverpool and around Liverpool and Liverpool fans all over the world. It's not a normal or usual club. It's a special club."

When asked to describe himself in comparison to Jose Mourinho calling himself 'The Special One'

"Does anyone in this room think that I can do wonders? No. I'm a totally normal guy from the Black Forest. My mother may be sitting in front of the television watching this press conference and have understood no words until now, but she is very proud. So I'm a totally normal guy – I'm 'the normal one', maybe."

The type of football he wants his Liverpool team to play

"We will try to start playing very emotional football because I think this is important at Anfield."



Having control of transfers at Anfield

"It was not a problem for 10 seconds. I'm not an idiot. For me it's enough that I have the first and the last word – in the middle of these two words we can discuss everything."

Being realistic

"I didn't expect that we would run through the league from the moment I started. But I trust in the qualities of the players."

The British press

"All the people told me so much about the British press...so it's up to you [the press] to show me they are all liars!"

What he wants to see from Liverpool fans

"We have to change from doubter to believer. Now."

Anfield

"I love all the stories and history. Anfield is one of the best places in the football world."



KING OF THE KOP



Anfield could hardly wait to welcome the boss for his first home game in charge… Chris McLoughlin keeps a close eye on Klopp as his team host Kazan

Anticipation is one of the greatest feelings you experience when following football. The excitement of what might happen – the apprehension that swirls around your mind ahead of a big game – keeps you coming back. Even if the reality doesn't always match your dreams.

Indeed, sometimes you cannot help but question your faith. Belief can ebb away. Liverpool supporters will always have hope in their hearts, but when performances and results leave you regularly frustrated enthusiasm and excitement levels dip. Jürgen Klopp sensed that when he walked through the doors at Anfield to take charge as the new manager of Liverpool Football Club. Behind the trademark thick-rimmed glasses are a fresh pair of eyes. They saw that improving things on the pitch isn't the only task here.

Negativity can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Expect to fail and you will. An increasingly downbeat mentality had become entrenched among Liverpool supporters. Klopp is determined to consign that to the past.

The media lapped up Klopp's 'Normal One' soundbite at his press-conference unveiling, but the line that he hoped would resonate most with Kopites came at the end of the LFC TV interview he gave to Claire Rourke the day before. Turning to the camera, looking each and every viewer in the eye, he kept it concise. "We have to change from doubter to believer. Now." The beaming smile that followed was infectious, but everyone knew the point he was making was valid.

It was evident to what extent those words had been taken on board when Liverpool took on Rubin Kazan in the Europa League at Anfield, Klopp's first home match as manager. Anfield is famous for its European nights. The reputation is earned on merit. Our eyes have seen the glory. Our songs have rang in opponents' ears. But not every European night is as atmospheric as Inter Milan 65 or St Etienne 77.

Liverpool versus Rubin Kazan in a Europa League group-stage match on a Thursday night is not Liverpool versus Chelsea in a Champions League semi-final. There's no comparison. Nor should there be. Your turkey tastes better on Christmas Day because it's a one-off and you've been looking forward to it for weeks. Even Facebook foodies don't upload their beans-on-toast photos every other Thursday night.

But this was a unique situation. Liverpudlians had a new manager to welcome and, after listening to his words and seeing our players work harder than ever in his first game at Tottenham, added effort was put in by match-going Reds. Several new banners appeared on the Kop, some of which had been given a first outing at White Hart Lane. *Jürgen's Reds: Scouse nicht Englisch* stated one. A Bundesflagge und Handelsflagge (the German flag) had *Jürgen: Meine Held, Meine Kumpel* (Jürgen: my hero, my pal) printed upon it. *Jürgen Klopp: Kop Idol* featured on another.

Two of the most striking banners featured silhouetted images of Klopp's trademark hat and spectacles. *Far From Normal* read one, but the other will have struck a chord with the Liverpool boss: *Then I saw his face, it read, Now I'm a believer.* How apt.

The next line of that 1966 hit just happens to be 'not a trace of doubt in my mind'. We're more used to lyrics from The Beatles than The Monkees on Kop banners, but when you're changing from doubter to believer you'll take your inspiration from anywhere.

Seeing the man himself dressed in a smart club suit (which he always wears for European games instead of his more casual weekend-wear tracksuit) stride out onto the Anfield pitch during the warm-up also gave those inside Anfield an immediate lift. The ground wasn't even half-full at that point, but the proverbial glasses of those applauding were.

"Klopp has charisma, he can galvanise a crowd and he's very visible"

Klopp is charismatic. He's a proven winner. He can galvanise a crowd through his personality. And he is also a very visible presence. The Liverpool manager watches his players go through their pre-match routine on the pitch. He spends most of a match stood in his technical area, expressing a wide range of emotions as the action unfolds. And when the final whistle goes he again walks onto the turf to shake the hands of every player and match official before applauding those in the stands who have paid their hard-earned money to be there.

It made for fascinating viewing, even if not all of the match necessarily did. UEFA protocol meant that *You'll Never Walk Alone* was sung before the gladiators entered the arena – their official theme tune takes precedence on such occasions – but the Kop ensured that our new manager, who appeared on the front of the official matchday programme in an iconic Barack Obama pop-art 'Hope poster' design – got to witness the most famous sight in football by belting out an extra chorus. He stood inside his technical area, gazing down towards the Kop end, drinking it all in.

"I've heard so much about Anfield," he said in his pre-match press conference. "We are waiting for this special atmosphere." *You'll Never Walk Alone* gave him a taste of it, but with only 18 Kazan fans having made the arduous 2,000 mile trip from Tatarstan (there were so few of them they flew in on the same plane as the team), Anfield was loud but not at its crackling best. There's more to come, and the same can be said from Klopp's team. A 1-1 draw against a

Pre-Kazan training





First goal of a new era…scored by a German appropriately

side down to 10 men from the 37th minute wasn't the result we were after, but at least every Kopite knows that their manager goes through exactly the same gamut of emotions as they do during the 90 minutes.

Jürgen Klopp can't help being demonstrative. It's in his blood. And those Reds sat in the Paddock and Main Stand saw it up close. After just three minutes he was having words with the fourth official. Soon afterwards, as James Milner forced a corner, he paced up and down his technical area like an expectant father waiting for a baby to be delivered. And, when Emre Can was caught in possession, he shook his head in frustration...only to burst into a spontaneous round of applause when the German midfielder hunted his opponent down and won the ball back.

Kazan played in black and gold. They looked like the 1980s Lotus F1 car that Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna drove. And when Marko Devic scored in the 15th minute it put them in pole position. That goal was the first to be registered on Anfield's flashy new scoreboard. The old black one with red lighting, in place since Gerard Houllier was Liverpool boss, has been upgraded for a bright red one with the scoreline in white. The Kazan fans, sat in what used to the Kremlin, sorry, Kemlyn Road stand, must have taken a photo or two of it before it was called into action again in the 37th minute.

Already booked for a studs-up challenge on Alberto Moreno, Kazan skipper Oleg Kuzmin bundled Emre Can over and Austrian referee Robert Schorgenhofer sent him off. Philippe Coutinho curled in a free-kick that just evaded Divock Origi, but the ball flew back across goal off Blagoy Georgiev and Emre Can was lurking to slide it in. Klopp raised both arms aloft before

"He walked down the touchline urging the Kop to crank up the noise"

turning to face the Main Stand and fist-pumping the night air. The men who shrewdly appointed him, FSG's John W Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon, smiled and applauded. Liverpool's first goal of a new era had been scored by a German. It couldn't have been more appropriate.

What followed next, though, was frustration. The Liverpool manager kicked thin air when Kazan were awarded a soft free-kick. He strode down the touchline clapping his hands in the air when some much-talked about *gegenpressing* saw possession won back. But with chances being passed up early in the second half the Liverpool manager – for just the second time all night – sat next to trusted lieutenant Zeljko Buvac to discuss tactics. Christian Benteke, warming up down the Kop end, was summoned moments later.

Brought on for Coutinho, who was given a hearty man-hug by his new manager as he departed, the Belgian international came closest to getting a winner when his 80th minute shot hit the post just seconds after Klopp had started to walk down the touchline gesticulating towards the Kop with his arms to crank the noise levels up. When *The Fields of Anfield Road* rang out moments later, he turned to the fans and applauded. Perhaps, in that moment, the relationship between Liverpool supporters and their new manager was defined.

When he called for some noise, the crowd responded. When the volume levels were raised, his team almost scored and the Liverpool manager responded to the crowd. Yes, the Redmen didn't emerge victorious, but the positivity that Jürgen Klopp is demanding was evident when the players were clapped off despite a draw. His infectious enthusiasm, and the anticipation of what is to come as he builds his Liverpool team, is beginning to rub off. All in it together? You'd better believe it.



Final whistle and time to take stock



KLOPP QUOTES

Cameron Brannagan's new contract

"I saw enough that I can say congratulations to both sides for the new contract. He's a great young guy. I like his style. For his age he has everything you need for a midfield player: he's strong, he's clear, he's cool."

Instant gratification

"If somebody hopes that [success under me is] quicker or faster or whatever, then I'm sorry for this. But I don't think it's better that we win the first game and don't know why – I think it's important that we find a way that we win games in the future and know why."

On domestic cup competitions

"For me it's all the same. I want to win games. I don't want to give up before we have to. It's pretty easy for me: it's the most important cup in the world if we're playing in it tomorrow."

Drawing his first Liverpool game at Anfield, 1-1 with Rubin Kazan

"When you come for the first time to a new house you have a present. I am not quite satisfied with my present."

Hitting the ground running at Anfield

"If you're new [as a manager] at a club usually you have time [to settle in], but if you don't have time then you just have to accept you're doing it the hard way."

Full throttle football

"I said 'full throttle football' at Dortmund and my God I cannot say always the same things, but it will be full throttle football. It's not so bad!"

On success

"Everybody wants it and I want it too. We all want the same thing, we want to be successful. But maybe I'm more patient than other people. Everyone can be sure we'll do everything for this club. *Everything*."




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Introducing Zeljko Buvac

Jürgen Klopp arrived at Anfield with two trusty lieutentants in tow

Zeljko with the boss

The Reds' new assistant manager is 54-year-old Bosnian coach Zeljko Buvac. He is the man Jürgen Klopp has described as his 'brain' and the pair have been close friends since playing together for Mainz 05 in the early 1990s.

Buvac had been trying his hand at management in the fourth-tier of German football with SC Neukirchen in 2001 when he was appointed as Klopp's assistant at Mainz. He was placed in charge during the pair's early days at the club as he was in possesion of the coaching qualifications that the German lacked at the time. When Klopp moved to Borussia Dortmund in 2008, he soon installed his trusted assistant as his number two.

Dortmund midfielder Nuri Sahin, who spent a brief period on loan at Liverpool in 2012/13, says the pair are practically identical in their footballing philosophy. "Zeljko Buvac is basically Klopp's twin," Sahin told the Bundesliga website. "Both of them see football in exactly the same way."

The relentless high pressing and swift counter-attacking football that defined the Dortmund side was partially moulded by Buvac, with whom Klopp has previously said he shares a 'telepathic' relationship. He was in place at Melwood to take training ahead of Klopp's bow at White Hart Lane and will play an important part in the Reds' tactical set-up.

Speaking about Buvac and Peter Krawietz, who has also accompanied Klopp to LFC, the boss said: "You will feel it when you see them – they are cool, they are football maniacs. They work pretty hard and they are my perfect partners in this job, because as a manager you always have to make decisions and always have to think about so many different things. In my opinion, it's very important that you have somebody you can talk to. We can talk about everything. I make the decisions, of course, but I need very good people around me."



and Peter Krawietz

Another key part of Jürgen Klopp's backroom team is Peter Krawietz. The 43-year-old specialises as a video analyst concentrating on his own team as well as the opposition. He has also worked as Klopp's chief scout during the course of the last 14 years.

Former Dortmund midfielder Paul Lambert said of Krawietz : "Peter is a big part of his [Klopp's] team and he was at Mainz with him. He knows him really well and is someone whom he trusts to be very analytical about the game. He's someone he'll lean on. He was great with me when I was over there and showed me how it worked on the analysis side of it."

Unlike Bovac, Krawietz has no history in the game in a playing capacity, but his skills as an analyst and a scout have seen him become one of Klopp's lieutenants having worked together since the manager's days at Mainz 05. Klopp's attention to detail comes by way of Krawietz, whom the boss nicknames 'The Eye' thanks to the relentless flow of information provided on the opposition as well as his own club's players.

Primarily a chief scout at Mainz, Krawietz's role developed at the Westfalenstadion where video analysis and rigorous preparation made him an indispensable figure at the club. German football journalist Raphael Honigstein has said that Krawietz's scouting background is also key. He told BT Sport: "When Dortmund were identifying a new signing at left-back a few years back, he reminded the club that they had Marcel Schmelzer in the youth team. He became a key figure in the club's successes."

Speaking to German magazine *11 Freunde* in 2011, Klopp said of the coaching triumverite of himself, Buvac and Krawietz: "The three of us together would make a really good Bundesliga coach."

Reflecting on his new backroom team at Anfield, Klopp said: "It's not only these two guys [Buvac and Krawietz] – I'm really looking forward to meeting the rest of the LFC staff, I want to learn from them and use their power. Of course that will take time, when I know what they are all able to do. At the moment, we start with these three guys; we have Pep [Ljinders] and John [Achterburg] in our training team, two Dutch guys. It's the first time I've worked together with Dutch guys – it's not so far away from Germany so we will see, maybe we can talk in German! I'm looking forward to it."



Krawietz (far left) completes the trio


L.F.C.
L.F.C.



Hamann on Klopp: Didi says that behind his compatriot's smiles and engaging sense of fun is a ruthless resolve to take Liverpool back to the top of the football tree

Like everybody else I was very impressed with how Jürgen Klopp came across during his first few weeks in England, *writes Didi Hamann*. There were plenty of smiles and jokes from him in press conferences and he appeared to be a friendly and likeable guy.

But make no mistake, underneath all that is a ruthless side that every top coach needs. Football management is about tough decisions and sometimes upsetting people. Klopp proved he can do that during his time at Borussia Dortmund. He clearly had a fantastic bond with his players there and that helped them to achieve so much success, winning two titles ahead of a much more powerful Bayern Munich.

The Dortmund players were willing to run and run for him whenever they took to the field because they respected him so much. From chatting to a few lads who have played under Klopp I learned that a big part of his managerial style is based around the way he speaks to each individual and addresses them before a game.

That's why it's vital his English, which is already pretty decent, gets even better in the weeks and months ahead. The quicker it improves the more it will help the team.

Klopp hurts when his team loses

The fact that Klopp is seen as such a character and creates so many headlines might be his way of taking the pressure off the players. Instead of them, the focus is upon him; and while reporters and interviewers love to have a laugh with him, it won't always be like that. I remember a game last season when Dortmund lost 1-0 to Bayern. Understandably Klopp wasn't happy afterwards. There was no laughing and joking then because he was so upset by the result. He wants to win and it hurts when he doesn't.

While he always attracts media attention and sometimes seems to enjoy being in front of the cameras, I think even he has been taken aback by the interest in his life away from the training ground, especially when his team were yet to play a game.

Everywhere he went during his initial few days in Liverpool there seemed to be a photographer, even if he was only having a drink in a bar or looking for a house. That will have been completely new to him. In Germany there is obviously an interest in football, but detailing each aspect of a manager's whereabouts is almost unheard of.

In many ways I think some of the hype around him had to do with the fact it was during an international break when he got the Liverpool job. England had already qualified for Euro 2016 and were playing two low key games against Estonia and Lithuania, so there weren't many headlines surrounding the national team. Instead the focus turned to Klopp. Thankfully that seems to have moved on now as the team have had more fixtures in the various competitions.

Naturally there has been a lot of attention on the teams he's selected. Some people suggested Klopp's arrival would work in favour of Emre Can and Firmino, as both of them have played in the Bundesliga. I don't think it's as simple as that. He'll pick the best players available to him, regardless of nationality or anything else. There were rumours in Germany that he had wanted to bring Firmino to Dortmund so he should know a lot about him already. With Can it's different: he'll want to identify his best position and put him there because he's been used



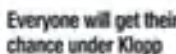
“HE JUST WANTS TO WIN”

in a variety of different roles during his year and a bit at Liverpool.

As with any managerial change, there will be players who suddenly move up the pecking order: they might have been out of favour under the previous boss but will now get a chance. I think Klopp will give everybody an opportunity because his squad isn't the biggest, especially after he lost both Joe Gomez and Danny Ings before they'd even played a game for him.

When it comes to him signing players, we shouldn't make assumptions either. He might look to Dortmund or the Bundesliga but it's not certain. Again, I think it will be about getting the best quality that he can when the transfer window opens in January. But that is a notoriously difficult time to make good acquisitions because clubs are understandably reluctant to let players go.

Before that comes around Klopp will have to get through his first taste of festive football as a manager. I've



Everyone will get their chance under Klopp

"Can his team play full throttle football without a Christmas break?"

spoken in this column previously about how football in Germany shuts down completely around Christmas, whereas in England it gets even busier. That was something I found unusual and demanding. It might also play a part in the style he wants his team to adopt. Can he play the same 'full throttle football' in the Premier League without a rest for the players at the turn of the year? It would be hugely demanding to try it.

Dortmund did play that way, but they were quite regularly able to win games by scoring two or three goals by half-time or within the first hour.

That meant they could rest and conserve energy during the remainder of the game. I think Klopp will have to find a balance between the way he wants to perform and the unique demands of the Premier League.

Something that should really help him is the positivity his appointment has generated among the fans. They'll be buzzing at Anfield and I think that can give the team a little extra. When you are on the pitch you do pick up on the vibe from the crowd, even more so if it's not good. Negativity really affects young players and those more experienced aren't immune to it either. It's very hard to shut out, whereas positive energy really helps.

I think a sense of togetherness is more important at Liverpool than at some other clubs. Now we have that and I'm confident the team can do well. It won't be straightforward but I feel they have a realistic chance of finishing in the top four.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann





“I’VE GOT SO MUCH I WANT TO SHOW THE FANS”

Having led the line impressively Divock Origi hopes for more chances to impress the boss and the Anfield faithful



Feature photography: John Powell

You were immediately loaned back to Lille after signing in the summer of 2014 – how did you find that?

You always want to join a new club directly but that was the deal the clubs agreed and I've learned a lot in the past 12 months. I am still young at 20 and at the time I was just a teenager, so I was glad that I was able to play regular games. I believe that will bode well for me here now. I had a lot of feedback from Liverpool during the year. They kept a respectful distance but at the same time they tried to help me wherever possible. I think that showed how much interest they have in me.

Then there was talk of me coming here in January so that was a bit of a strange time. I read about it in the papers like everybody else, but tried not to think too much about it and just focus on my work at Lille. As I say, I feel that I grew in the season that I played in France last year. It was my first full season in Ligue 1 and I was happy that I could have that experience for my career.

"Liverpool tried to help me wherever possible when I was in France"

Brendan Rodgers was the manager who signed you for Liverpool – it must have been sad to see him leave?

Yes of course. It was the first time in my career that I have seen a change of manager and it wasn't easy. But ever since I came here I have always felt that the club as a whole has had a lot of belief in me.

It's still early days but how have you found working with Jürgen Klopp and his backroom team?

If you look at the new manager, the immediate feeling is that he sends a lot of positive energy to everyone. He likes to work with everybody and help them make progress and he has a clear plan. That has also come across in what I have seen in the first games he has been in charge. When you have a coach like this it means you have a leader who sends this energy to the group and we try to react for him in every way. I think it should be a good partnership for him and for Liverpool.

I heard he said he'd been interested in signing me when he was at Borussia Dortmund so that shows that he is aware of my qualities. That was nice to hear but eventually it is down to me to show what I can do on the pitch and I have to focus on that. Everybody at the club believes in me so I have to work hard and try to maximise every moment of playing time I get.



Back in France v Bordeaux



"A coach like this is a leader who sends energy to the whole group"

Much has been made of the manager's emphasis on pressing and counter-pressing – against Spurs in his first game in charge you personally covered 11 kilometres...

The manager has a clear objective and when I was speaking to him prior to that particular game, he just told me

to give it my all. Every trainer has his own way of managing and his own methods. The thing I like is that he's very direct and can show his plan and convince everybody with his ideas very quickly. That is the one thing that struck me from the start of his training sessions: he is clear in his way of explaining and his vision.

I am a player who is quite generous [in terms of work-rate] and yes, I try to help the team where I can. I hadn't seen those stats but it is nice to know that I was able to contribute in this way. The chance I had with the header early on was frustrating as I was a crossbar's width away from opening my scoring account for Liverpool. It was a big day for me and I wanted to show my qualities in a big game against Tottenham Hotspur and the first game of the new manager.

You've played as the main striker and as one of the three in behind – what is your favoured role?

One of my qualities is that I am versatile so I can play as one of two strikers, three strikers, on the wing or upfront as the main forward. When you are upfront you are closer to the goal and can potentially score more often so I would say I prefer this position. But I am young and I will play wherever the coach needs me. It was nice to see the change in tactics [under the new boss] and I can adapt.

I still have a lot of things that I can show to the fans here. One of my attributes is that I can carry the ball and take on defenders in one-on-ones with my pace. Setting up the goal for Adam Lallana [in the UEFA Europa League


Hug from the gaffer





game against FC Sion] was a nice moment and I feel that I am improving my game every time I get on the pitch.

The unfortunate injury to Danny Ings has moved you up the pecking order in attacking options too...
Maybe, but we are a family here at Liverpool and it is always horrible to see someone pick up a bad injury like Danny and also Joe [Gomez]. We all have to be strong and help each other and make sure we are ready in case we are called upon. I have always tried to be prepared for the coach when he needs me. That is the key to doing well.

We understand that during your time at Lille you subscribed to a video analysis service to study your game...
I firmly believe that it is important to improve every day and here at Liverpool we have an analysis

"I've only explored a bit of the city but you feel the love of everybody"

team who can help you all the time. I try to use what I see of my own performances in matches but also examine what other strikers have in their game and learn from their experiences if possible. I know that if I can add to my qualities, that can add up to me having a good performance. Here you have everything you could want to succeed. There is a good staff who can assist you, you can do extra training, you can study video analysis. Outside of the football itself we have great fitness coaches and dieticians so you have everything in place to help you become a good player.

Your father was a former professional who won more than 100 caps for Kenya – is he a regular sounding board for you?
He is a person who loves football so he comes and watches the games at Anfield when he can and I am lucky in that he also played football. He keeps his distance and allows me to find my own way and understands that I am a footballer too. The most important thing is always the coach but he is always there to support me. He won the league in Belgium in 98 so he has experience and a winning mentality and tries to help me whenever he can.

You have been with the squad since July now – how have you found the first few months in the city?
I feel settled now. Coming to Liverpool was a massive experience and I have been able to discover a bit of the city



Full throttle at Spurs

and the mentality of the people and I like it. I have been to the movies once so I have only seen a little bit of the town. I haven't found it too difficult in terms of being recognised at the moment but after the World Cup in Belgium things were a bit hectic back home! It is always nice to see that people appreciate you and you feel the love of everybody.

Talking of Belgium, you have recently helped the team qualify for the European Championship finals next summer...

It would be a nice experience to go to France next summer, especially as I have played club football there. I have already been to Brazil and it's special to play in major tournaments like this. We have a great team so these are exciting times for the Belgian game. It was nice to know Simon Mignolet and then have Christian Benteke join soon after I arrived here at Liverpool as I think it always helps you settle when there are familiar faces in the squad. They are good lads and players with experience too so I was happy they were here to welcome me and guide me.

There is always a good atmosphere around the national team group whenever we go away. I feel good there and so it would be nice if I can be a part of that squad next summer. But before then there is a lot of work to do here with Liverpool.



Training with team-mate Mamadou Sakho

DIVOCK ON DIMITRI

During the 2012/13 season, Divock played alongside playmaker Dimitri Payet at Lille. The French schemer moved to Marseille before making the switch to the Premier League with West Ham at the start of this season. He has been a key figure as the Hammers went into the final week of October standing third in the Premier League table. "We played together during my first season and obviously he's a wonderful player," Divock explains. "We lost a bit of contact when he went to Marseille but whenever we see each other we always speak. I am sure he will continue to do well."



Interview: William Hughes

ULTIM

Back of the net



"He often shoots early, he doesn't mind where he shoots from, but he seems to get late fade on his shots like a golfer. He usually gets ten out of ten shots on target, and with nine out of ten he hits the corners. If he is doing that deliberately, his accuracy is quite amazing." The words of Mark Bosnich when discussing the ability of Robbie Fowler to find the net – and the former Aston Villa goalkeeper was well-placed to voice an opinion as the Liverpool striker put the ball past him on 11 occasions between 1993 and 1998. That skill to place the ball unerringly out of reach of keepers is often what sets the great strikers apart. Kevin Keegan regularly did it and Luis Suarez was adept at it from both open play and free-kicks; while Michael Owen loved cutting in from the left before using his right foot to curl the ball across goal and just inside the post, as did Fernando Torres.

Pace and power



With modern central defenders at the top level blessed with speed and nimble feet as well as strength, those trying to get the better of them need to be fast. When Michael Owen emerged, his speed seemed to almost catch opponents by surprise: the kind of acceleration which helped Ian Rush to race through and convert. More recently Fernando Torres and Daniel Sturridge have given the team an injection of pace on the counter-attack. Luis Suarez wasn't as quick yet his sharpness and acceleration over the first few yards meant he could get away from opponents. Then there was no catching him due to, as Jamie Carragher put it, "his strength and the way he uses his upper body as a shield to hold off defenders."

ATE STRIKER

Attack attack attack! A user's guide blending the very best from past and present exponents in the colours of Liverpool Football Club

Find the gap



Man-marking, parking the bus... Defences at the top level set out with game-plans to thwart the best strikers. Trying to find a way through isn't easy, but Ian Rush's diagonal runs allowed him to get in behind defences and find gaps. Michael Robinson played alongside the Welshman between 1983 and 1984 and recalled: "Ian made me look brilliant in the air. When I jumped up and headed, the ball would always go to Rushie. The way I jumped up, Ian would deduce where the ball would go. He worked it out before I had."

Grace under pressure



Some strikers just know where to be. As Ian Rush said: "No one taught me how to put a ball in the net. I I just seemed to be able to do it better than other lads." If the ball drops in the box instinctive goalscorers are usually there to convert. They also have a calmness about them when an opportunity does come along. Kenny Dalglish's winner in the 1978 European Cup final is a prime example. Some players might have frozen when presented with a chance to put their side ahead during the biggest game of the season. Instead the Scot delicately lofted the ball over Bruges keeper Birger Jensen and into the net. "I knew the keeper was going to go down early," he revealed. "I dummied to play it, Jensen fell for it, allowing me the opening to lift the ball over the top of him."

Head the ball



When it comes to aerial prowess it's natural to think of big target men like John Toshack, Peter Crouch or Andy Carroll. But scoring with your head isn't all about size. As a youngster growing up in south Liverpool, John Aldridge earned the nickname 'Ossie' because his friends felt his long neck could help him win any ball in the air. Years later he opened his LFC goals account with a fine header against Southampton. This term Danny Ings has also shown that being effective in the air isn't only the domain of those who are six-feet-plus, the former Burnley man scoring headers in games against Carlisle and Everton. Christian Benteke, meanwhile, underlined his threat with a thumping header v Southampton last month.

Linked in



While the best forwards are usually scorers, they also need to link the play and provide chances for others. Kenny Dalglish was the master of this: his strength and close control meant he could easily retain possession, hold off defenders and bring others in to the game. Peter Beardsley, another no7, was similar to Dalglish in that he could turn on the halfway line and, seemingly with just a cursory glance, spot the exact ball to play to release his strike partner or another team-mate. Luis Suarez was perhaps recognised as more of a goalscorer than Dalglish or Beardsley, but the Uruguayan was also adept at occupying defenders until support arrived and then slipping the ball through at the correct moment.

Words John Hynes


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As he relinquishes his role at Liverpool Ladies to take up a new position with Boston Breakers, manager **Matt Beard** looks back on two titles and ahead to the future for the women's game

"SOME OF THE FOOTBALL WE PLAYED WAS PHENOMENAL"



It must have been a tough decision to leave Liverpool?

Yes, it was. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at the club and I'm extremely proud of the achievements of my staff and players. Winning two WSL titles has been fantastic but just as satisfying has been watching some of the younger players grow and develop, especially this year when we have had our backs against the wall with injuries. Some players have really stepped up and proved that they can compete at this level and do well as a Super League player.

Moving to America is a good opportunity for you...

The club informed me of Boston's interest just before the Manchester City game in mid-September. Everything was done in the right way with regards to their approach and we agreed a package over the following weekend. This year was my 11th season in the women's game in England and I felt an opportunity to go to America was an exciting one. You watch how the country has embraced their national team winning the World Cup, attendances rise and more teams join the league. You consider that and the fact that it's an English-speaking country which will hopefully make it a smooth transition for my family. Anything like that is a big risk but coming to Liverpool when they were bottom of the league three years ago was a big risk, yet it's paid off because ultimately we've had a successful three years.

Aside from winning the league itself, are there any particular moments which stand out?

There are so many moments. If you look at that first year, 2013, we won the title up against an Arsenal team of Yankey, Davison, White, Little,

Nobbs, Chapman, Houghton, Fahey, Beattie and Scott. That was probably the best team there had been in the WSL up until the point when we won it. I still put my hand on my heart and say that Liverpool team was probably the best I've ever worked with, both technically and tactically. Some of the football we played that season was phenomenal. If you look at Man City now, they are playing good football but they are not hurting teams like we did in 2013. It was something else. To beat Arsenal to the league title that year given the strength of their team was a massive achievement.

Then to defend it the year after with the injury problems that we had was extremely satisfying. The thing about that season was that because of the injuries we had, the players had to adapt to different systems and proved that tactically they could do what was required of them. I was really, really pleased with those two years. Even this year when you look at the lengthy injury list we've had, there are some players who have really stepped up to the plate. Players such as Martha Harris and Kate Longhurst have done very well and that's really pleasing because Martha was in and out of the team the year before, as was Kate, and they've come in and established themselves as first-team regulars.

The injuries have been incredible this year with 13 players ruled out at various stages...

It's something that happened to us all year for whatever reason and we just had to take it on the chin. They have mostly all been impact injuries too so it's not as if it's anything we had been doing in training. To have as many as we had is unusual, so to get to the semi-finals of the Continental Tyres Cup was a fantastic achievement. The players deserve a lot of credit because we haven't been able to change things. As much as it has been a challenging year, I have probably


Champions!

learnt more as a manager this year than I have in previous years.

You really upset the applecart in women's football in 2013 when you brought a number of players in from overseas and forged them into a title winning squad...

When I was at Chelsea we could only recruit English players because of the budget at that time. Then when I met Liverpool we sat down and spoke about the ambition of the club. I knew we had to bring some players in from overseas because one of the factors behind Arsenal's dominance was that they had the best English players. It was as simple as that. In order to challenge them, we had to bring top players in from abroad and that's why we went down the route we did.

One thing I would like to think that I've always done as a manager is get

"As good as the titles has been watching the young players grow"

the balance right within my squad and that year it worked. It clicked straightaway and we had some real leaders in that team: Gemma Bonner, Louise Fors, Fara Williams, Whitney Engen, Natasha Dowie and Corina Schroder. Then we had some really good young players as well such as Nicole Rolser and Amanda Da Costa. It was an unbelievable team because we had complete balance throughout and that's why we were so dominant and did so well.

The thing with that group of players was that every training session, they wanted to learn and improve and, as a manager, that is the best feeling in the world. I knew that I was going into work and going to be challenged by the players. They wanted to know the ins and outs of the game-plan, how we were going to set up and so on – they embraced that. In terms of talent, that team in the first year was probably the best ever in the WSL to date.

Looking back, what was your favourite game?

I've got two! The first year at home to Chelsea, we were 2-0 down inside five minutes and won 4-3. We got ourselves back into the game at 2-2 but then Chelsea scored in the 81st minute with an own-goal from Becky



Matt's LFC highlights

2013 Leads the Reds to the FA WSL title in his first full season at the helm.
2014 Liverpool compete in the UEFA Women's Champions league for the first time.
2014 The Reds defy the odds to retain their FA WSL title.
2015 Despite a crippling injury list Liverpool reach the semi-finals of the Continental Tyres Cup and represent England in the UEFA Women's Champions League for a second successive season.





With Ladies skipper Gemma Bonner

Easton – it was a good finish from her! We went up the other end and got the equaliser and then found a winner.

I would also select the game at Arsenal last season when we drew 3-3. Again we were two down early on. We made a change after about 15 minutes but found ourselves 3-1 down. At that point Nici Rolser came on for the first time after her ACL injury and scared the life out of them. All of a sudden their backline was 10 yards deeper and gaps started to appear. Nici scored and then Gemma Davison got the equaliser with the last kick of the game to get us a draw.

Those games were defining moments in us winning the title. If we hadn't beaten Chelsea, we wouldn't have won it in 2013, and if we hadn't drawn against Arsenal in 2014 we wouldn't have gone into that last day with a chance of winning the league again. They were the moments that showed the character of the group.

Last season also saw the club's Champions League debut against Linkopings...

It was great to qualify after our first season. The Linkopings game in Sweden, we knew that was going to be a tough evening. It was our fourth game in 11 days and taking into consideration winning the league and the travelling, it was an intense 11 days. Added to that, I knew there were one or two players in that room that were going to be leaving. I said to the girls: 'Look, are we ahead of ourselves on this journey?' And I thought we were. Who expected us to win the division in the first year of the cycle? Who expected us to win it again in the second year when teams like Man City came into it and Chelsea and Arsenal invested heavily? It was phenomenal.

The supporters will certainly be sad to see you go...

To be honest that's why it was such a tough decision to make. Players and managers come and go, but supporters are always the heartbeat of the football club. We've all been disappointed with the players that we've lost over the past two seasons. Those same players we've lost would probably walk into any WSL 1 team. But the Liverpool journey will definitely continue because it is a really good football club.

The first thing I did when I came to the city was go to the new museum down by the docks. Inside they've got a football exhibition with a 10-minute film where it talks about Liverpool and Everton and all the football culture here. I wanted to familiarise myself with what football meant to this city because I'd just known what I did from London. To be honest with you, football's the biggest driver in this city from what I could see. That helped me instantly fall in love with the football club. So to leave has been a real tough decision but sometimes in life you just have to be selfish and I will be eternally grateful for the support that we've had. Every time we go away from home the managers and the staff of the opposition always praise our fans.

My biggest wish now for the players and the supporters is that our fan-base continues to grow and they get the people through the door that they really deserve. Liverpool is a unique story as a football club and our players embrace that. We've written our own history as a group and we can be proud of that. I hope that the club kicks on now, competes with the top clubs and continues to win titles and be successful.

Meet the new boss

Scott Rogers is Matt's successor as Liverpool Ladies manager. Rogers, who has worked as the Reds assistant boss under Beard for the past three years, has taken over the reins with immediate effect. On his appointment Scott said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been given the opportunity to manage Liverpool Ladies.

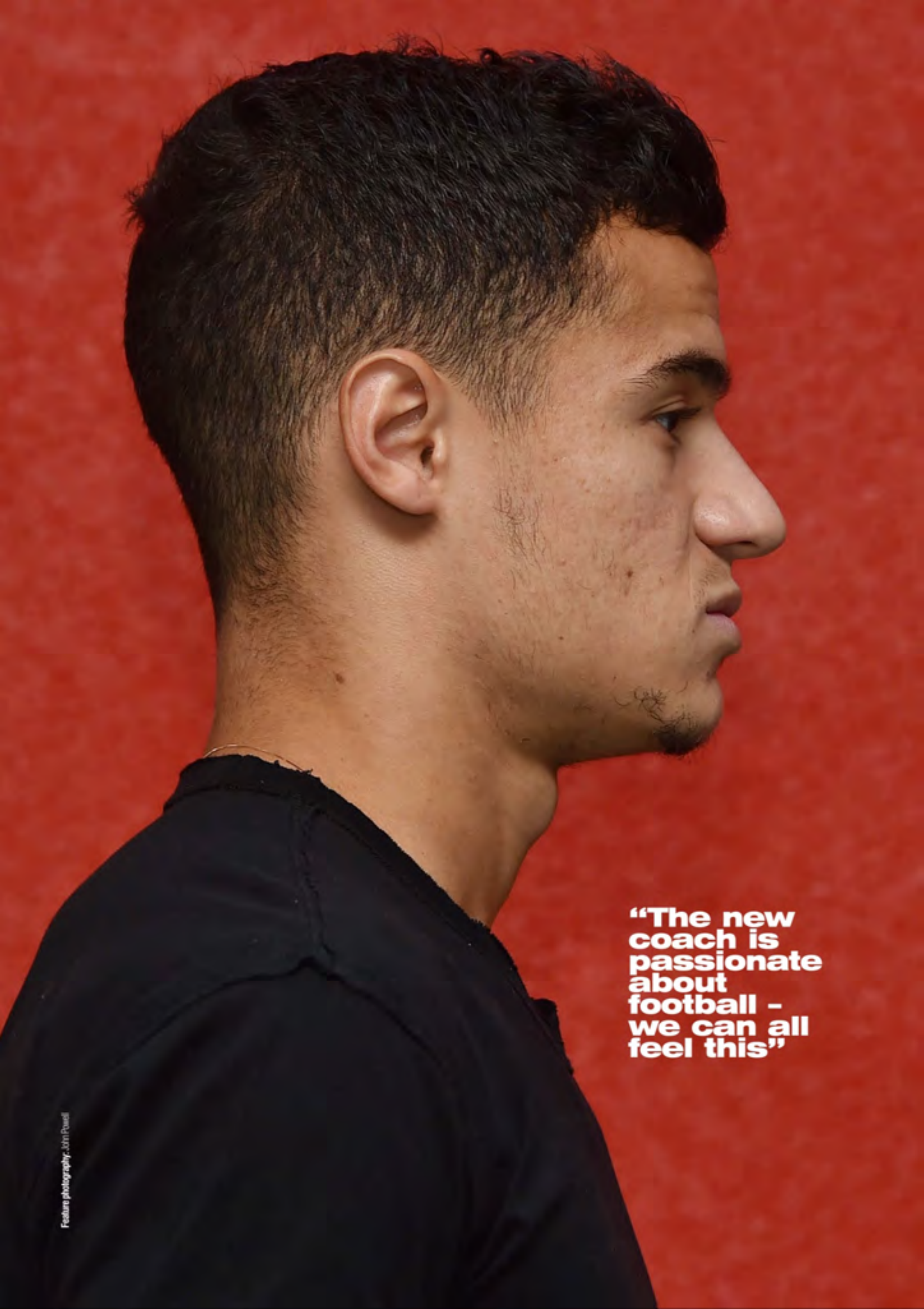
"Having worked under the stewardship of Matt for the past three seasons, I know what a great club this is and cannot wait to get started. We have had a tremendous run and although we were unfortunate with injuries last season we have a young, hungry squad and I am confident we will be competitive again next season."

Rogers previously managed Blackburn Rovers Ladies and has taken on a key role working with the club's Development Squad players during the past year. Ian Ayre, chief executive officer of Liverpool FC, added: "It has been an incredible story for our Ladies team during the past few years. Winning back-to-back titles and qualifying for the Champions League two years running has been a great achievement. We are delighted to now appoint Scott as the new manager and I'm looking forward to next season to carry on with the great progress that's been made to date."



Words: William Hughes


LFC.


"The new coach is passionate about football - we can all feel this"
Feature photography: John Powell

HEAD & SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST

Midfield is Philippe Coutinho's magical domain but he's happy to adapt to Jürgen Klopp's demands

When Philippe Coutinho scored his first Liverpool goal in a 5-0 victory against Swansea City in February 2013, the average age of the Reds side he played in was 27.9 years.

A little over 12 months later, when the Brazilian magician fired home a late winner against Manchester City that put the Redmen in touching distance of a first Premier League title, the average age of the side had dropped to 25.56.

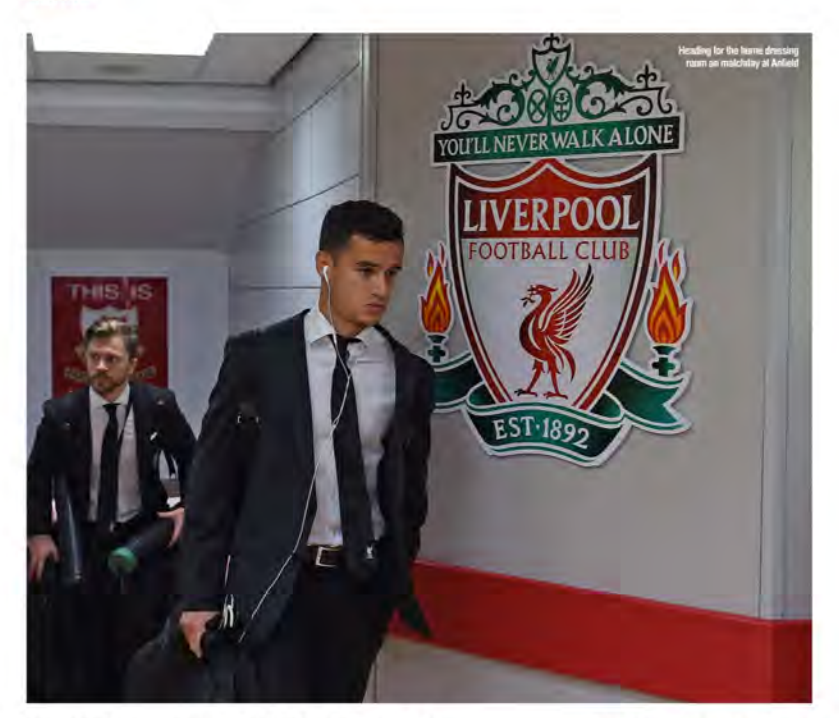
And, on the opening day of this season, when a trademark spectacular strike from Coutinho ensured Liverpool got their campaign off to a flying start with a 1-0 success at Stoke City, the average age of the Reds starting XI was even lower at 25.11. Which was rather old when you consider the average age of the team that started our Europe League match in Bordeaux was 23.65, and that was before 18-year-old Pedro Chirivella came on for 34-year-old Kolo Toure.

The figures are indicative of a club strategy to put faith in youth; to invest in the future by giving emerging young players the opportunities their talents deserve. With getting such chances, though, comes responsibility.

Coutinho is 23. The same age as model Cara Delevingne, singer Sam Smith and actress Selena Gomez. All are prominent in their chosen professions. Yet, despite their youthfulness, the general perception is that they've all been around for quite a while.

That tends to mean that when their work is analysed – and the traditional media focus on performers has arguably now been overtaken by social-media interest – just how young they are can be overlooked. Which gains even more relevance when you consider the following. Philippe Coutinho is now Liverpool's fourth-most experienced player. Only Martin Skrtel, Lucas and Jordan Henderson in the current squad have made more appearances than him. Only Daniel Sturridge and Henderson have scored more goals.

Those statistics prompt Coutinho to raise an eyebrow when I mention them to him. We're sat inside the Melwood press room on the afternoon after the 1-1 draw with Rubin Kazan at Anfield and I put it to Coutinho that, as



Heading for the home dressing room on matchday at Anfield

Liverpool's fourth-most experienced player, perhaps he now feels an added sense of responsibility when he wears the red shirt?

He looks at me and the interpreter on hand to ensure he fully understands what is being asked, and shrugs the question off like I'm a lumbering defensive midfielder intent on relieving him of possession of the ball. "The way I see it is that there is always a responsibility that everyone shares when we are out there on the pitch," he says. "When the game starts I don't think about whether I am more or less experienced than whoever I am playing alongside. Those thoughts stay outside the pitch. There is always a collective responsibility when you play for Liverpool."

Of course the man who first gave Coutinho the responsibility of wearing the Liverpool no10 shirt can no longer be found in the manager's office. Coutinho arrived from Inter Milan during Brendan Rodgers' first January transfer-window in 2013 and is regarded by many Kopites as the club's best signing during his tenure.

"I came to Liverpool at a young age from Italy and I've already learnt a lot"

Coutinho made 112 appearances under Rodgers' charge, scoring 17 times, and is naturally appreciative of his former manager's influence. "I'm very grateful for all that Brendan Rodgers did for me. He brought me here from Inter Milan and he always trusted me to play so I am very grateful for the opportunity he gave to me.

"I came to Liverpool at a young age and from a very different style of football in Italy. I learned a lot under his management, especially in terms of positioning, while he was here."

He almost got his hands on a Premier League winners' medal during Rodgers' time here too. It still somehow feels raw talking about that thrilling 2013/14 campaign. Liverpool played some exhilarating football and got closer to winning that elusive first Premier League crown than ever before, but ultimately didn't get across the line first. If any lingering regrets did flash through Coutinho's mind when the Reds parted company with Rodgers then he isn't focusing upon them now.

"It was a very good season. We almost won the Premier League, but it was a very strange feeling after that [when Liverpool didn't win it]. That is all part of the past now. We have a new manager and we have to move on."

So we will. You know what it's like when you get a new boss at work or a new teacher at school, it takes time to get to know them and what they want from you. Being a footballer with a new manager is no different. There are differences and adjusting inevitably takes time.

Liverpool supporters look for those differences on a matchday, but for the players it is in training sessions at Melwood with Jürgen Klopp and his assistants Zeljko Buvac and




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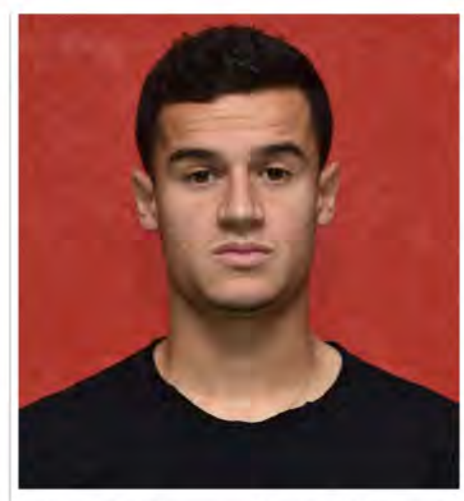
Peter Krawietz where the changes are noticeable. "We all know that he is a very good coach and little by little we are becoming accustomed to what he has been asking from us. He has been insisting on us to play a pressing game and we have been working very hard in training on this.

"Training sessions have been intense. We were already used to intense training sessions, but we have all noticed the difference."

Coutinho and his team-mates are also very familiar with the passion for the game that Klopp naturally exudes. We've all see him go through the emotions on the touchline during Liverpool matches and he's demonstrative when leading training at Melwood too. "Yes, our new coach is very passionate about football. We feel this when we are working with him. He is also passionate about enjoying the game. He wants us to enjoy playing football and that comes across very strongly to both myself and my team-mates."

As Liverpool's new manager himself has admitted, it will take time to get all his ideas across. But having taken charge during a season rather than ahead of a new campaign he is having to do that work amid a hectic schedule. That must make introducing a new style of play tough for both the

"The boss wants us to enjoy playing and that comes across strongly"



manager and his players?

"Whether we think learning his new style is difficult or not, we have to grow accustomed to it," says Coutinho. "He asks for us to play with as much freedom as possible when we have the ball, but when we lose it we are asked to recover it as quickly as possible. We press very high with the intention of trying to make the other team lose the ball close to their goal. If we do it right, and win the ball back in these areas, it gives us a better chance to score.

"The most important thing is that it is imperative for the team to press together. This is what we have been trying to do and this is how we are developing as a team."

Coutinho started all three of Klopp's first Liverpool matches, twice playing on the left and once in the centre of a midfield three that operates behind a lone striker. It suggests that 'Little Phil', as Kopites affectionately call him, will be utilised in different roles as he was under Rodgers, and such a prospect doesn't faze him.

"We have spoken about which



The white stuff: Melwood training



[illegible] during the Merseyside derby

"Play with freedom but win back the ball as quickly as possible"

positions I will play in, but I want to do what he asks of me. It doesn't matter if I am in the centre or on the wings, it's about getting the best out of every player in the team."

Which brings us to a key point. This season, in addition to Daniel Sturridge, Coutinho has three new strikers – Christian Benteke, Divock Origi and Danny Ings – to work with, all of whom have different qualities. In the 11 games before Klopp was appointed, seven different forward-line options were used. Benteke, Origi and Ings all started upfront on their own while partnerships of Benteke-Ings, Benteke-Sturridge, Sturridge-Ings and Ings-Origi were also selected.

While that is a partial reflection on the injury issues that have beset the Reds strike force – Origi is the only one of the four not to have spent a period on the sidelines so far this season – and our busy schedule, it has also made life harder for the midfielders playing behind them.

Coutinho's job is to create goalscoring opportunities and weigh in with a strike or two himself. But forming an understanding with those he is employed to create chances for isn't easy when their identities change through necessity so often. To his credit he refuses to use the relatively high turnover of personnel as an excuse for Liverpool's lack of goals and the number of draws this season – "I don't think that has too much of an influence; when we go through a bad patch we simply have to play better" – but admits that it is important for him and his team-mates to learn how to play with each of the strikers.

"Yes, I have to adapt to them, but it's not only me who must do this. When you get new players, especially strikers, it is the job of all of the team to give them the service they need. I have to learn whether it is right to play a fast ball or a pass along the ground depending on who I am playing the ball to.

"The training sessions are very, very important for this adaptation process to happen. We work on this every day in training and the sessions are very intense. If we're not doing it right, or something isn't working, we do it again and again until we get it right. The more you train with your team-mates, the more you learn about each other and this is important for the team to do well."

What every Kopite wants to see now is just how well this Liverpool side can do with Klopp overseeing things from the touchline. If the team develops quickly and the succession of draws become a string of wins then, with no single team setting the Premier League alight, the Reds could rapidly make up ground. There are also cup competitions, both domestic and in Europe, to aim to win and while Coutinho believes expectations of what can be achieved in 2015/16 must remain realistic, his natural ambition means he isn't ruling anything out.

"The objectives are to be as successful as we possibly can. But we have to think about each game at a time. We also know we have to play better to achieve our targets."

Interview: Chris McLoughlin

Phil on Firmino

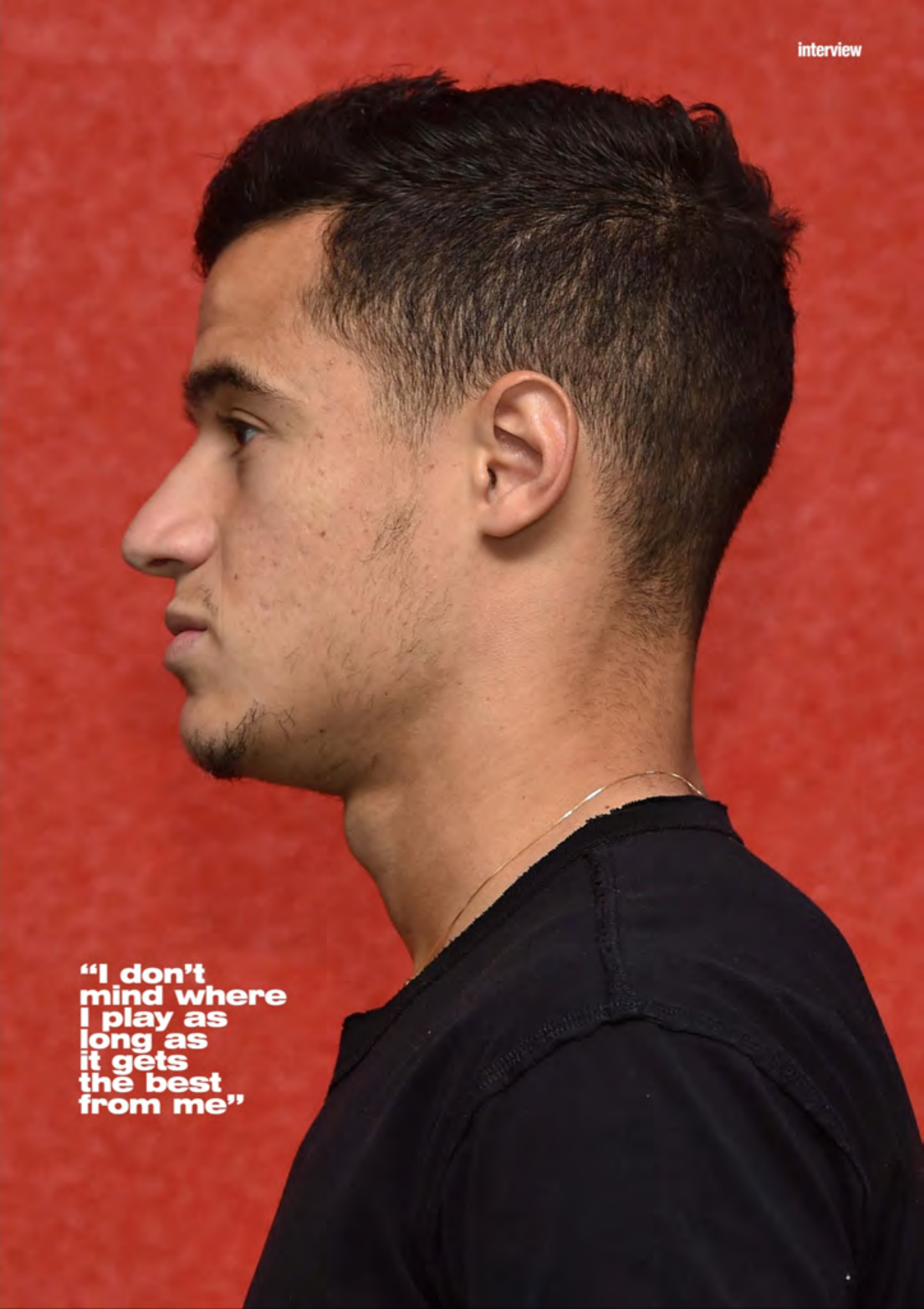
Back in August, during our trip to The Emirates to face Arsenal, Liverpool fielded three Brazilian players in the same starting XI for the first time in the club's history. Philippe Coutinho lined up alongside Lucas and Roberto Firmino, the sixth Brazilian to have played for the Reds, on what was a proud night for the trio.

"I'm happy that there are other Brazilian players here with me," says Phil. "It is a dream for me to play for Liverpool Football Club and I think it is also a dream for them to be playing here as well. To have all been in the same team was very nice and it is good to share those memories together."

The other three Brazilians – Fabio Aurelio and goalkeepers Diego Cavalieri and Alexander Doni – have since departed. But Firmino is only just getting started in a red shirt. A back injury suffered against Carlisle United forced him to miss four games, but the Brazilian attacker, signed from Hoffenheim in the summer, is now back in action and Coutinho is predicting that he will become a firm(ino) favourite on the Kop. "Roberto is very good player. He is very strong physically and he is a good finisher. He will bring a lot of joy to the Liverpool fans.

"Roberto has been adapting very well to living in England. He speaks and understands English and you have to remember that he came here from a league which is very difficult to play in. He was playing every week in that league and he did very well so I think the Liverpool fans are going to see a lot of good things from him." Don't say you weren't told...





"I don't mind where I play as long as it gets the best from me"



PLAY IT AGAIN

Talk about *Back to the Future*... Thirty-five years ago Sam Allardyce was a centre-half in Sunderland colours, and here he is trying to snuff out the threat of Kenny Dalglish and a visiting Liverpool side in yellow. Big Sam's team suffered defeat to Bob Paisley's reigning champions at a snowy Roker Park that afternoon with 'The King' inspiring the visitors to a 4-2 victory. Four of the six goals came in the final eight minutes with Sammy Lee scoring two of them.





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Neil Mellor

Working tirelessly for one of the best managers around – who wouldn't?

Jürgen Klopp is an exciting appointment as Liverpool manager. He is somebody whose style of management is very much admired across Europe and a man who will interact with the supporters, regaining the closeness that perhaps has been missing.

His enthusiasm on the touchline is infectious. We saw the way he celebrated the goal against Southampton at Anfield, leaping into the air with joy, and that sort of passion is what Liverpool supporters want from their manager. To know it means a lot helps to endear both the players and supporters to him. Now we want to see him celebrate some wins.

One problem this season has been that Liverpool have taken leads in games but surrendered it, going on to draw. It's become very frustrating and a lack of goals is still apparent, but it is still early days for Klopp. He is trying to implement his ideas to the current group of players and part of that will be establishing who he wants and which players may not be part of his plans.

It will take until the summer to fully complete that assessment – clearly it's a getting-to-know process at the moment – but he will already have an idea of what he needs to strengthen the side. The transfer windows will give Klopp the opportunity to put his stamp on the squad, but in the meantime he'll do so anyway through his identity as a coach.

Emre Can is an example of a change we've already seen. He was regularly used in defence by Brendan Rodgers, but started the first three games under Klopp in midfield. Can is capable of playing in different positions – such players are ideal for managers when they need a position filling – but I feel he has more to give in midfield areas.

"Klopp's teams are known for their high intensity sprints and pressing"

He seems to enjoy playing further forward in a three-man midfield, popped up with a goal against Rubin Kazan and the pressing style that Klopp employs plays to his strengths. Liverpool fans have always appreciated players who work hard to win the ball back and that is an aspect of Emre Can's game we're really starting to see now.

Every player works hard but different managers want different styles of how you play when the opposition have the ball. Klopp's teams are known for high-intensity sprints and high-intensity pressing. That's his trademark and as a player you either adapt to what the manager wants or you won't have a future at the football club. It's that simple.

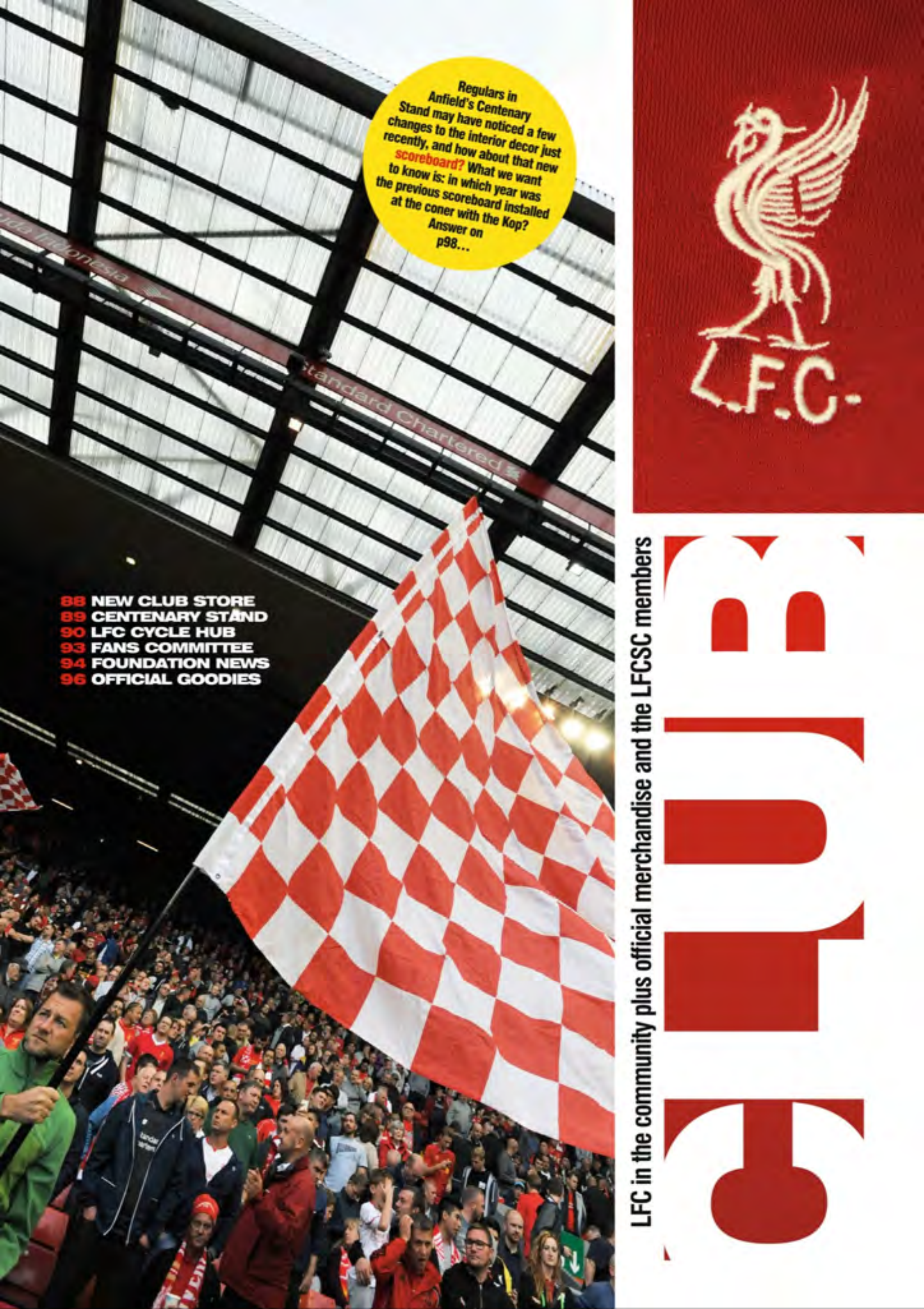
From what I've seen the players are adapting and I am sure that they will be want to part of his plans because Klopp is one of the top managers at one of the biggest clubs in Europe, so why wouldn't you want to be there? That doesn't make playing at such a high intensity easy, though. As a former striker myself I know how much chasing defenders down takes out of you, especially if you're playing upfront on your own. It can be exhausting.

Ultimately, centre-forwards have to score goals. Yes, they have to work hard, defend from the front and hold the ball up, but the biggest part of a centre-forward's job is to score goals. If there is any element of tiredness creeping into your finishing then that is something the manager will look at, but Ian Rush proved here that doing all those things and still scoring regularly is possible. Rushie tirelessly defended from the front and that set the tone for the rest of the team. If the players behind him hadn't worked as hard it would've been pointless. But they did, and we're now going to see if the players that Jürgen Klopp has inherited are capable of doing the same.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



Origi exemplifies Klopp's work-ethic


Regulars in Anfield's Centenary Stand may have noticed a few changes to the interior decor just recently, and how about that new scoreboard? What we want to know is: in which year was the previous scoreboard installed at the coner with the Kop? Answer on p98...
88 NEW CLUB STORE
89 CENTENARY STAND
90 LFC CYCLE HUB
93 FANS COMMITTEE
94 FOUNDATION NEWS
96 OFFICIAL GOODIES
HUB
LFC in the community plus official merchandise and the LFCSC members
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Hardest part: where to start?

Winter wonderland



Klopp cups

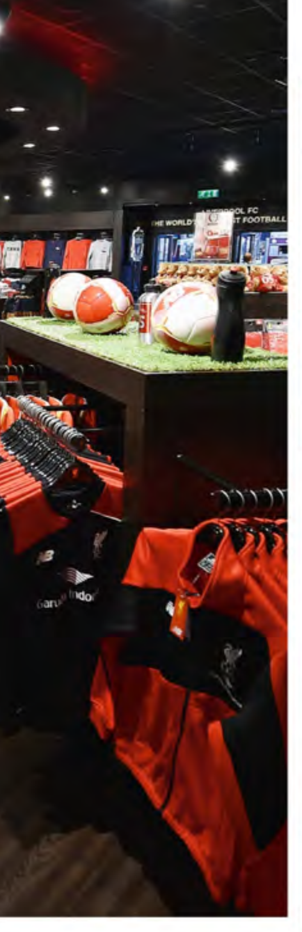
Check out Liverpool FC's all-new Williamson Square store for official gear, gifts and goodies

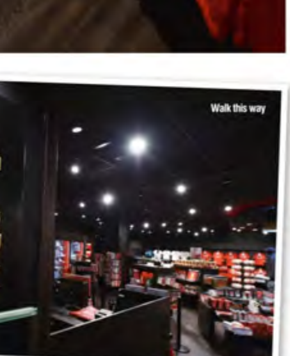
Liverpool FC's Official Club Store, Williamson Square in the heart of the city has a brand new look after a spectacular re-fit.

Just recently the ribbon was cut by Reds legend Robbie Fowler, revealing a new store covering 4,000sq ft and following the club's latest black-and-gold retail concept with state-of-the-art media displays. Inside is everything an LFC fan could ever need, including the New Balance 2015/16 kits and training ranges, exclusive Liverpool FC fashion and official gifts and souvenirs.

Originally opened in late 1999, the Williamson Square store was the club's second after Anfield and the first in the city-centre – today's other official venues include Liverpool ONE, Birkenhead, Chester, Belfast and Dublin. The re-opening was celebrated with free Soccer School coaching sessions, a visit from Mighty Red, plus special appearances from Mamadou Sakho and Nathaniel Clyne. **Follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram for more information.**







Walk this way



Walls of fame

Back inside the stadium there have been some awesome additions

There's been lots of talk about what's going on outside Anfield just recently and rightly so. But have you seen or heard about some of the changes inside the stadium? And we don't just mean the fetching new scoreboard.

The interior concourse of the Centenary Stand now boasts some fab new signage on its walls and along the gangways: cut-outs of legendary players on the back of seats – ideal for photo opportunities; 'Anfield Moments' which celebrate great games and goals and the heroes behind them, with snippets of famous commentary; and a Captains Hall of Fame. Thanks to Ray Hughes for these great shots.





TOP GEAR

How cycling to the game has become a smooth experience for fans

Liverpool FC has introduced a free cycling hub this season and the club is urging two-wheeled supporters to take full advantage.

The LFC Cycle Hub, which was launched in partnership with Cycling Projects for the first home game of the season against AFC Bournemouth in August, has been a massive success. It's open three hours prior to kick-off and one hour after the final whistle, enabling fans who cycle to Anfield to drop-off and park their bike safely and securely with an attendant at Stanley Park Car Park on Priory Road.

Attendants from Cycling Projects and Liverpool FC Foundation volunteers are also on-hand to assist supporters with the parking and retrieving of their bikes to ensure a seamless and hassle-free experience.

Andrew Parkinson, operations director at Liverpool Football Club, says: "The Cycle Hub has worked fantastically well this season and the fans have really embraced the idea. We hope that many more supporters will make use of the Cycle Hub to make Anfield an easier, more accessible option for fans and a real alternative transportation choice."

One satisfied Reds supporter comments: "It's a great concept and should have been introduced a long time ago. Somewhere safe and undercover to store my bike while at the game is a real benefit to me and the local traffic. Previously it had been a walk, bus-ride and walk taking almost an hour, now it's less than half that. I hope the service continues next season."

Matchdays at Anfield

Access to the stadium is via Anfield Road and Walton Breck Road. The temporary closure of Anfield Road pauses on matchdays, as routine road closures are reinstated during 2015/16.

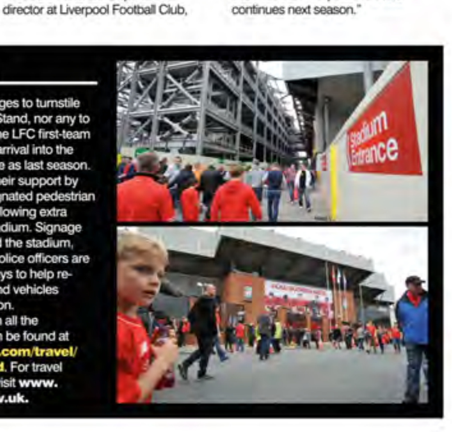
Walton Breck Road now closes to all vehicles exactly one hour before kick-off. The current work and demolition areas mean pedestrian access to the stadium via Baltic Street and Bagnall Street is no longer possible by foot or vehicle.

There are no changes to the pre-match disabled drop-off point, taxi drop-off points or key bus services including Merseytravel's Soccer Bus and 917. Matchday car-parking locations continue as last season.

There are no changes to turnstile access in the Main Stand, nor any to the route taken by the LFC first-team coach – the team's arrival into the stadium will continue as last season.

LFC ask fans for their support by keeping to the designated pedestrian access roads and allowing extra time to get to the stadium. Signage is positioned around the stadium, and stewards and police officers are present on matchdays to help re-route pedestrians and vehicles to minimise disruption.

Key information on all the current changes can be found at **www.liverpoolfc.com/travel/getting-to-anfield**. For travel information please visit **www.merseytravel.gov.uk.**



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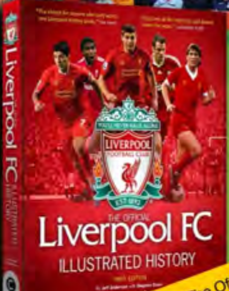
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VOICE OF THE FANS

New chair Graham Smith talks us through his role on the Liverpool FC Supporters' Committee



You're the new chair of the Liverpool FC Supporters Committee - can you explain how and why it came about?

I have been interested in supporter issues since joining the Spirit of Shankly in 2008, recognising the positive role which fans can play not just in the ground but also in trying to help the club understand their supporters for the benefit of the club. I was voted onto the Liverpool FC Supporters Committee last spring and elected as chair in August.

You also represent Merseyside-based fans - what does that entail?

The Committee has made it a priority this season to focus upon local and younger supporters. My 'constituency' clearly covers both of these groups and it is my aim to do what I can to make the match more accessible for more local and younger people. While not wanting anyone excluded, the culture of the club was forged by local people and it is this culture that needs to be protected and embraced.

What are the main issues that arise from meeting and talking to fans in the Merseyside area?

Accessibility and affordability. I applied for the original position because I wanted to make a contribution to the club and to try and represent people who want to make sure that the club recognises its roots and culture. It is essential that the club gets the right balance between commercial success and not alienating the people who made the club what it is.

What have been the major achievements for the LFC SC to date, and your collective goals for the future?

I think the club has had the benefit of engaging with the SC and other supporter groups and, due to that, recognising issues that affect supporters on a day-to-day basis. Engagement over ticket prices has seen rises limited, and going forward, getting the club's focus on local and younger supporters is a major aim for the next year.

Can you run through what happened at the last Committee meeting?

The meeting took place in August and is always at Anfield. The SC meet as a group in the morning to go over the questions we've put to the club beforehand and any last-minute issues that need raising. The club have at least half-a-dozen representatives at the meeting in the afternoon, and although it is disappointing that the owners struggle to attend, Ian Ayre has been a pretty much permanent fixture.

The theme for August was the club's relationship with its supporters and it covered everything from supporter investment to diversity and accessibility for disabled fans. A full minute of the meeting was taken and once agreed it was published on the club's website for supporters to see.

We welcome any issues from supporters that they want putting to the club at these meetings. The next meeting in November will have the theme 'Younger Supporters'.

Finally can you tell us a little about yourself as a Liverpool fan?

I've been going to the game since the late Sixties. Like a few people I was from a 'Blue' family but a 'Red' uncle got hold of me and I was hooked straightaway. I've had a season-ticket for longer than I can remember and I get to a few away games each season as well. My eldest son got his season-ticket this season after being on the waiting list for 17 years, so he and my long-suffering friend John are able to sit together!



OUR MATE MAMADOU

If there's one thing the pupils at All Saints love best, it's a visit from a certain French international...



A fierce but fair tackle, last-gasp block or nifty piece of footwork... If it's Liverpool FC's no17 who's doing it, you can be sure the refrain 'Sakho! Sakho!' will ring out around Anfield or whichever away ground the Reds happen to be gracing.

It's not just in the stands either where French international defender Mamadou Sakho is much-loved – he's a big favourite too at All Saints in Anfield, partner school with Liverpool FC Foundation. As part of his ambassadorial role with the club's charity, he's called into the school several times in the last two seasons, and just recently he made his first visit of season 2015/16.

This time Mamadou took part in sports and reading-in-French sessions as well as joining in with the school's 'daily mile' run. He's actively involved in assisting Liverpool FC Foundation community coaches, who deliver football sessions at the school each week as part of their intensive 'On the Ball' programme, as well as helping pupils with their French language studies.

Sakho said: "I really enjoyed visiting the pupils and staff at All Saints Primary School and helping deliver

fun and engaging lessons. It's very rewarding for me to be able to get to know the pupils and the school well and use my skills and knowledge in such a positive way.

"It's very important to me to be able to support the Liverpool FC Foundation and give something back to the local community. Providing opportunities to young people is essential to help them to develop new skills and build confidence."

Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation, added: "Mamadou's continued support of the LFC Foundation's On the Ball programme is fantastic. Without fail he brings out so much spirit, passion and commitment not only in the children but also in his role as an ambassador for the Liverpool FC Foundation. We are absolutely delighted to have him on board with us."



HOLA! SPANISH DUO VISIT LOCAL HOSPITAL

Liverpool FC left-backs Jose Enrique and Alberto Moreno visited Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital recently to take a tour of the new cystic fibrosis ward and spend some time with the young patients. While signing autographs and posing for photographs, Jose said: "It's a very humbling experience for me come to the hospital and see the patients here. If we can give them some joy while we're here then that's great." Alberto added: "It is fantastic to see the smiles on these kids' faces. It's so nice to spend time here and hopefully we can brighten their day."

Located near Broadgreen off Queen's Drive in the city, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation is one of the country's largest specialist hospitals, providing heart and lung surgery, and cardiology respiratory medicine including adult cystic fibrosis and diagnostic imaging, both in the hospital and out in the community. As well as the hospital's specialism as a leading heart centre, it provides care to young patients with cystic fibrosis. In September a multi-million pound project was completed to transform the services provided to all their cystic fibrosis patients, including the opening of a new ward.



Making a difference abroad

Liverpool FC Foundation recently delivered a two-day coaching workshop in Sweden as part of the United Nations Young Leadership Camp (YLC) programme. The YLC invited 35 youth leaders from Namibia, Ghana, Nigeria, Lebanon, and South Africa to the annual workshop, which the Foundation has now supported for four years. It includes a daily classroom seminar followed by practical sessions on the pitch, introducing football and basic skills to participants while encouraging physical activity and self-esteem.

Six Foundation coaches have also been supporting 150 young people in Northern Ireland by delivering a week-long Summer Soccer Clinic. Another annual event, it's kicked off with an assembly delivered by the coaches and attended by kids and their parents, followed by the soccer clinics which are part of the Foundation's international programme.

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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p5: The public house opposite The Park on Walton Breck Road is of course The Albert... **FOOTBALL p21:** The last manager to win on his Liverpool FC debut at Anfield was Rafael Benitez, 2-1 against Manchester City on 21 August 2004; Milan Baros and Steven Gerrard got the goals... **CLUB p85:** The previous scoreboard at Anfield was installed in 2003